

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Police Question Report Of Attack on Minister

Griffis May Face Charges on False Report; Second Attack May Have Been Fabricated

by Ray O'Loughlin

Former MCC assistant pastor Lynn Griffis may face charges herself if San Francisco police determine that she falsified reports of assaults. Police Chief Frank Jordan said that if investigators determined that Griffis had fabricated either of the two attacks she claimed to be the victim of, then he would consider with the district attorney charging Griffis with filing a false police report.

Jordan's statement came as police announced Aug. 4 that they had uncovered a number of inconsistencies in Griffis's story and were "re-evaluating the evidence."

Griffis, meanwhile, has resigned her post at Metropolitan Community Church on Eureka Street and hurriedly left the city Aug. 4. Her exact whereabouts were unknown but it was believed she has returned to her native Nebraska.

Jordan told reporters that police investigators were pursuing additional evidence in the case. He described an Aug. 3 meeting with prominent gay and lesbian figures, investigators, representatives from the mayor's office and Griffis. "After consulting with the mayor, investigators and others, we have determined that more clarification is needed. Inconsistencies need to be reviewed," said Jordan.

He said that Griffis had offered additional information, claiming that she had been sexually assaulted. That claim is being investigated by the SFPD sexual crimes unit. County Medical Examiner Boyd Stephens was also called in to look at evidence, said Jordan.

Police doubts focused on Griffis's reported second attack, July 27, in which she claimed two "skinheads" abducted and assaulted her. Police now suspect that Griffis may have made up the story and even inflicted wounds on herself.

According to Jordan, the first attack on Griffis, July 12, appeared to be legitimate. "There is no reason at this time to believe that report was not valid," he said.

Jordan would not specify what the inconsistencies were in Griffis's story though he did allude to there being "no attack as first reported" and to "many unanswered questions." He said that people in the area of the alleged attack reported seeing nothing unusual going on at the time.

But he said, "We want to check out the evidence very carefully, look at it in a neutral position."

He said the police had a duty to Griffis to insure due process to the investigation of her claims.

The FBI has been asked to

continue its assistance in the investigation. According to Jordan, Griffis is fully co-operating with the police.

MCC Pastor Rev. Jim Mitulski said that the church's board of directors had accepted Griffis's resignation promptly though he would not elaborate on details as to why. He said that the church extended "its compassion for Lynn." He praised her for the work she did for the congregation.

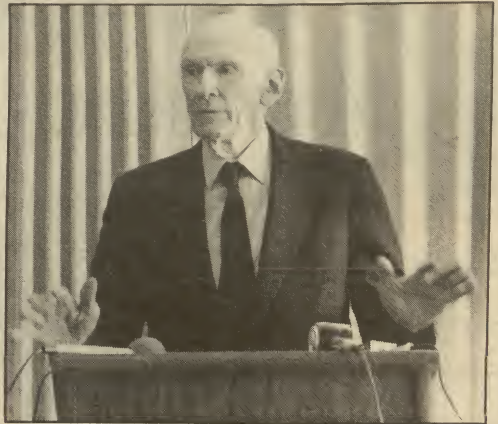
As to what happened and why, Mitulski said, "Only Lynn can speak for Lynn."

He said that he and the board of directors of MCC have pledged to fully co-operate with authorities.

Mitulski said he wanted to tell the gay community, "I believe that violence against gay and lesbian people continues to happen and it needs to be taken seriously. We need to be willing to believe people when they tell stories like this. I apologize the ways in which Lynn's association with us has compromised us in meeting our larger community and I ask for them to continue to have compassion for Lynn and to continue to support us in our work which preceded her and which will continue after."

Mitulski and others also praised the SFPD for its handling of

(Continued on page 4)



Sen. Alan Cranston has again blocked the Walker nomination.

(Photo: S. Savage)

Senate Again Nixes Walker Nomination

Cranston Again Blocks Nomination; Should End Effort for Fed. Judgeship

by Dennis McMillan

The nomination of attorney Vaughn Walker for federal judge in the Northern California U.S. District Court has again been defeated and returned to the White House by the Senate. Sen. Alan Cranston is credited with again blocking the Walker nomination.

Prior to adjourning, the Senate voted to keep all 120 nominations pending until it reconvenes in September. Three exceptions were made—an ambassadorial candidate for Luxembourg who

has been implicated in the HUD ethics scandal, an assistant secretary nominee for the Department of Energy who supposedly has no work experience or competence for the position, and Walker.

"This grouping of three is basically the most controversial and problematic governmental and judicial nominations pending before the Senate, raising serious questions about the capabilities of the three to per-

(Continued on page 12)

Senate Committee OKs AIDS Bias Bill

Bush Promises to Sign Law; Part of Ban on Disabilities Discrimination

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on Aug. 2 granted approval to a landmark bill banning discrimination on the basis of disabilities—including AIDS and HIV infection. The committee sent it on to the Senate floor by a unanimous 16-0 vote. Backers of the bill are now predicting it will be passed into law by the end of the year.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (S.933) would extend the anti-discrimination protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the areas of employment, public

accommodations and phone systems to people with disabilities. The bill would answer the repeated recommendations of virtually every commission in the U.S. appointed to address AIDS by finally banning AIDS and HIV discrimination in the private sector nationwide.

Currently, such discrimination is prohibited only in areas of housing and federal employment and elsewhere under a handful of state and local laws.

"By acting on this legislation today, we are taking an enormous

(Continued on page 19)



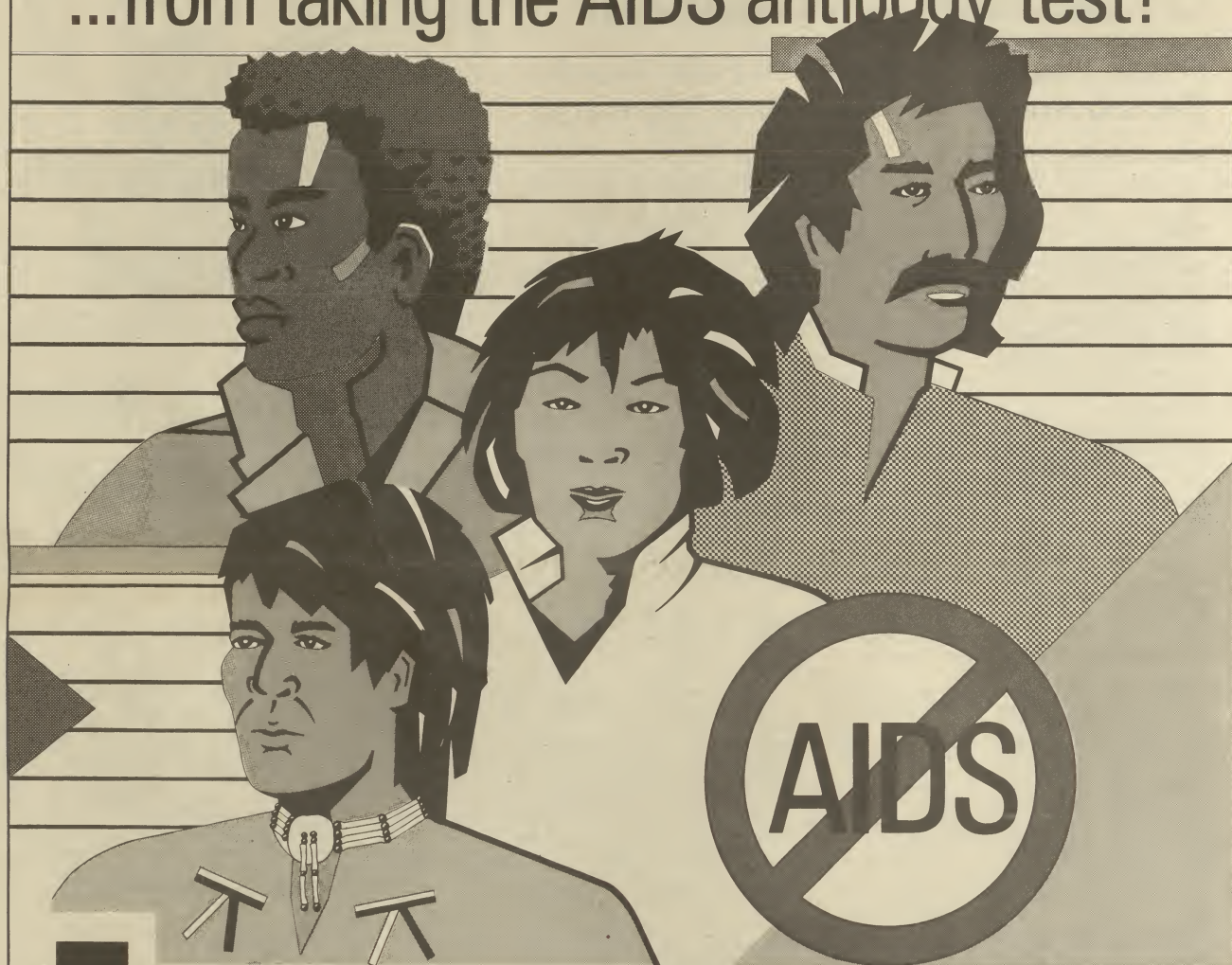
Safe Sex

The AIDS Emergency Fund found a new and exciting way to raise funds at its booth at the Dore Alley Fair.

(Photo: S. Savage)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MULTICULTURAL TRAINING RESOURCE CENTER. FUNDED BY THE S.F. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AIDS OFFICE.

Lesbian Fire Fighter Gets Promotion to Lieutenant

by Dennis McMillan

An openly lesbian fire fighter has been promoted to lieutenant, the first ever in San Francisco. Anne Young accepted her honors from the city's Fire Commission Aug. 8 at the new Police Academy building in Diamond Heights along with five other women graduating.

Deputy Chief of Operations Mike Farrell said the number of men in the SFFD is currently 1,298 compared to 12 women in the department. He said that Young was among a group of the first women to apply for a fire fighter position in SFFD, a little over two years ago.

San Francisco is the last major city in the country to hire women in its fire department. The new policy was brought about by a court order. The first woman in the country to be a fire fighter was hired in 1974. Presently there are about 2,000 American women who are professional fire fighters.

"There were a lot of unfounded fears before the women came in, but we went around to other cities' fire departments to see how they handled the situation," said Farrell. "It has worked out quite well and the women have done a very good job."

"Anne took the test, passed well, and I am confident in her abilities," he said.

"Anne is very capable and qualified with tremendous leadership ability," said Sharon Bretz, lesbian Fire Commissioner, who herself is the first gay

woman appointed to that position. "Her promotion has nothing to do with her sexual preference or gender, but this will be a symbol for other women to look to and realize this is no longer a dream but a reality."

She added, "I think every time you see a gay person promoted, it helps to remove stigma."

"It's a lot to take on, and it's a very important job, but I feel really good about it," said Young.

Young had been a fire fighter in Daly City several years prior. As a fire fighter in the past she worked with her crew in fire suppression, medical calls for people in crisis, business inspections, and public relations work such as visits to school classes. As a lieutenant, Young will remain a working part of her crew and also supervise the members. She will additionally take on new administrative duties such as per-

sonnel work, trouble shooting, report writing and documentation.

"I will have to separate myself somewhat from the crew, and that isn't being aloof, it's just what the job requires," Young said.

Life as a fire fighter means Young spends many consecutive days and nights on the job with up to 12 men. "I'm not going to say I didn't encounter hostility and apprehension from some of the men, but I realized that was a cultural hang-up, and for the most part they acted professionally with me," she said.

"It is a matter of adjustment for them, but necessary if your crew is going to work well as a team and rely on one another for their very lives."

She said she is most appreciative of the pressure that the fire chief must have taken for going through with this big trans-



SFFD Lieutenant Anne Young.

(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

formation in the department. "I'm a real advocate for change when I think there's a need for it," Young said.

Although Young did not dream as a child of becoming a fire fighter, she said she always wanted to be in a helping profession. The first inkling she had of

wanting to do rescue work was at age 16 working in a San Jose gas station at a very busy intersection. Having witnessed many bad car crashes there, she learned to handle emergency situations.

Young is not assigned to any station but will float among all the stations in the city. ▼

Sacramento AIDS Walk Raises \$11.9K

The Sacramento AIDS Walk will present checks totaling \$11,975 to 11 local organizations providing AIDS services. This is all of the money collected for the walk.

Hope House, CARES, the Hand to Hand Project of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, and the AIDS Ward at UC Medical Center will each receive \$2,000. Project Survival, which opted to get as much as its marchers raised, will receive \$869.

The Hemophilia Council of Northern California, Planned Parenthood, Sacramento Aid to AIDS, the Stop AIDS Project, the Aquarian Effort, and the Client Services Fund of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation will each receive \$513.

The AIDS walk raised \$11,975 in pledges and \$3,971 in donations. The Walk's expenses were \$2552 and the board of the AIDS Walk elected to retain \$1,118 for next year's walk. All of the money raised by the walkers through their pledges will go to the beneficiaries.

"We felt it was important that the public know that all of the money raised by the walkers went to AIDS charities," explained spokesman David Bernt.

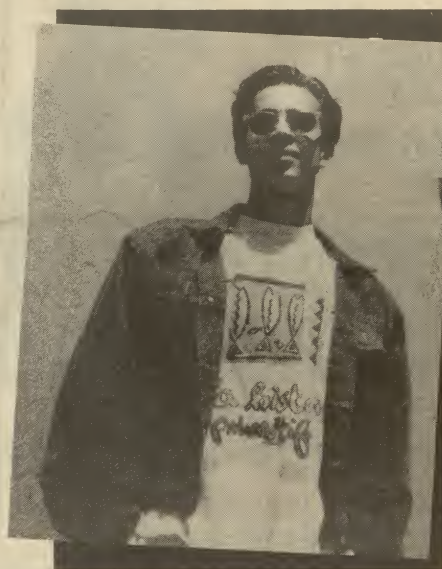
Checks will be handed out to all of the groups at a brief public ceremony in the Patio Room of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento on Aug. 17. Next year's AIDS Walk is already scheduled for May 20, 1990. ▼

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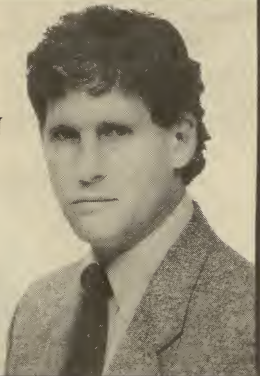
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Police Chief Frank Jordan, Rev. Jim Mitulski and Melinda Paras of CUAV.

(Photo: Rink)

Minister

(Continued from page 1)

the case. Newly appointed Police Commissioner Gwenn Craig said, "I am impressed with the thoroughness and sensitivity with which the police department has carried out this investigation."

Community United Against Violence issued a prepared statement saying, "At this point, only Lynn Griffis knows the full truth of what has happened. Whatever the truth is, we have a great concern for Lynn and for what she's been through. We have full con-

fidence in the San Francisco Police Department and believe their investigation in this case, as in others we have been involved with, to be thorough and professional."

CUAV displayed a stack of files on cases of assaults against lesbians and gays. "We want to emphasize that hate violence is a very real issue for lesbian and gay people. Each year we receive between 200 and 250 legitimate reports of such incidents, and surveys show that 86 percent of all lesbians and gays have been assaulted, threatened or harassed," said CUAV.

Chief Jordan pledged the

SFPD to fully investigate hate crimes in the future. "This in no way diminishes our commitment to dealing with hate crimes," he said. "We'll continue to give a high priority to prejudicial crimes."

Mayor Art Agnos released a statement saying that despite apparent inconsistencies in Griffis's story, violence directed at gays and lesbians is very real in San Francisco.

"Whatever the outcome of this investigation, we will maintain our vigilance in protecting all San Franciscans from hate crimes and pursuing their assailants," said Agnos. ▼

Griffis Not MCC Minister, Says Pastor



Inconsistencies have emerged in Lynn Griffis's story.

(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

by Allen White

Lynn Griffis is not a minister and may have misrepresented herself to Pastor Jim Mitulski about her standing as an intern in the Metropolitan Community Church. The information becomes one more bizarre revelation in the unwinding saga of a woman who twice has claimed she was beaten.

Don Eastman, who with Troy Perry is on the senior executive staff of the United Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles, said, "Lynn Griffis was never credentialed in the Metropolitan Com-

munity Church. I know that she would not have the right from the Metropolitan Community Church to use the title reverend."

When asked Tuesday if she was a minister, San Francisco Rev. Mitulski said, "No, she was not a minister."

He added, "She was supposed to have been in the process of being student clergy in the Metropolitan Community Church. Only in the last several days has it come out that she had never done paper work and registration work which she assured me and

others on numerous occasions had been done."

He said her failure to register as an intern with the MCC Church would have become apparent, even without the revelations of the last few days, by the end of the year.

Mitulski said, "She came to the church with very impeccable credentials." Griffis had supplied references which showed she had a masters degree in pastoral care and counseling from Lutheran Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. When she joined MCC San Francisco she pursued a masters of divinity degree at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Both of these are very respected mainline seminaries. Mitulski said the references provided from both schools were very good.

The Examiner also reported Tuesday that she also had told friends in San Francisco that she was attacked while jogging at the St. Paul seminary. But that story too is being questioned since the seminary and Twin Cities authorities state there is no record of such an attack.

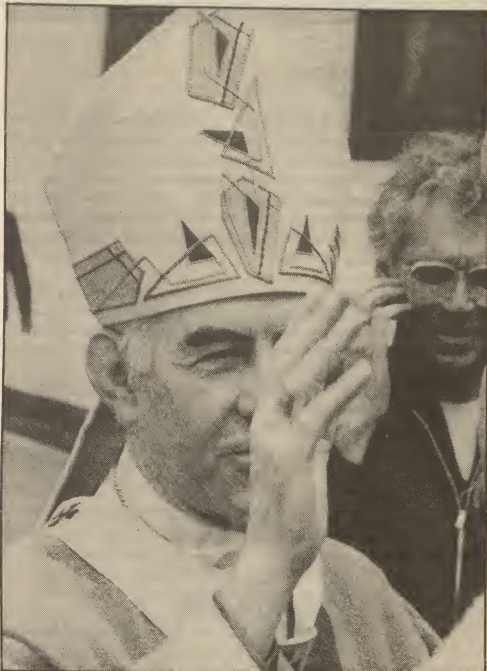
In the last few days, the two daily newspapers have been playing a cat and mouse game across the country with Lynn Griffis. The Examiner confirmed that two of their reporters have been flown to Nebraska, where her mother lives. They were unable to find Griffis.

Several sources state the San Francisco Chronicle also has at least one reporter on the trail of Griffis.

Though she was supposed to be headed to Nebraska, reports continue to surface which indicate Griffis has a new lover and the two have driven to Denver, Colorado and may or may not be headed to Nebraska. ▼

Quinn Statement on Violence Seen as Hollow Gesture

Archbishop Goes To Castro To Condemn Anti-Gay Assaults; Critics Say Opposition to Rights Shows Hypocrisy



Archbishop John R. Quinn.

(Photo: Rink)

by Allen White

The ability of Archbishop John R. Quinn to be a moral leader in San Francisco has clearly become clouded as he thrusts himself into the political arena in the fight to repeal the domestic partners ordinance. His statements rebuking anti-gay violence made last Sunday at the Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro were quickly and strongly criticized.

Jean Harris, an aide to Supervisor Harry Britt, said, "I think he is trying to use the gay community to get some good p.r. for his own reputation."

"You can't on one hand say, 'I will not recognize loving, caring relationships and families of lesbians and gay people,' which basically says we are not normal human beings. Then, on the other hand, say, 'but don't go beat them up.' It is hypocritical," said Harris.

"I think he is trying not to look like a bigot. I look at it as a lot of political opportunism," said Randy Schell. For many years, Schell served as a counselor at Community United Against Violence for victims of anti-gay assaults. He was also one

of the first openly gay persons appointed by Archbishop Quinn to a church commission.

During that time Schell observed Quinn's actions. "For years, the only statement he ever made on anti-gay violence was a letter to the deans in his diocese. He would never come out and say something about anti-gay violence to the general public."

"That he is doing it now, I believe is suspicious. I think he had been under a great deal of pressure because of all the work that has been done in the sidelines of the church against domestic partners," Schell continued. "It is easier for him to come out decrying anti-gay violence so he doesn't look like a bigot."

"I think it a little too late," said Bob Barnes, the political action chair of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. "I don't think it can be denied that the Catholic Church has played a major role and will continue to play a major role attempting to defeat domestic partners."

Barnes added, "I think it is kind of hypocritical based on re-

cent events in our community. I think he is trying to give us the political number but I don't think there is a lot of substance there."

Like many others, Barnes believes the intensive effort to put domestic partners on the November ballot through a petition drive has created an anti-gay climate. "Anytime that you have an issue which is being used to attempt to polarize the city you can use it as a weapon for violence against gay men and lesbians which I think can well happen. We are seeing evidence already happening," he said.

Todd Dickinson, a co-chair of the Alliance, a local political action committee, noted, "I think, what he is doing seems like a political ploy to ward off future criticism to his opposition to domestic partners."

"I think it is hard not to see a lot of hypocrisy in preaching against anti-gay violence while working very aggressively with his congregations to overturn domestic partners. I think it sends an extremely mixed message on how his people should relate to our community. It involves himself very deeply in secular political affairs," Dickinson said.

That Quinn would choose to

come to the Castro to make a statement on anti-gay violence was also questioned. Dickinson observed, "I think he should target his message out to all of the churches throughout his diocese like he has apparently done with domestic partners messages. If he is only preaching his message of anti-gay violence in the Castro, he has to go a lot wider."

Schell pointed out the problems created for Quinn when he preaches an anti-gay violence message outside the Castro. "It is very safe in the Castro. If he says it in the Castro, he is preaching to the people who are already converted. To say those words in other areas of the city and outlying areas the archdiocese has control over, I think would be wonderful. But it is too risky. He would come off as two-faced. He would be saying he supports the rights of gay people to live without fear of violent assaults but the second part of it is to do everything you can in the background to dismantle any provisions to name who their own family is."

Archbishop Quinn had been scheduled to speak to the Holy Redeemer Church congregation for several weeks. His remarks were made to close special devotions at the church.

His motives began to be questioned Friday afternoon. Following a 2 p.m. press conference with Police Chief Frank Jordan and MCC Pastor Jim Mitulski, the archdiocese was issuing their own press information.

At 4:17 p.m., information was being transmitted by local press wire services stating Quinn would appear on Sunday to make a statement about anti-gay violence.

He also made a telephone call to MCC Pastor Jim Mitulski. "He called to say he was praying for our community and then he said he would make a strong statement in his sermon on Sunday."

Mitulski added, "One thing I have learned from this last week is, you have to acknowledge when people do the right thing. I believe he thinks violence against gays is wrong and I think it is appropriate for him to say that. I wish he would support the domestic partners legislation and I don't think he will."

Randy Schell agreed, "I'm glad he made the statement. It's about time. It only took him nine years to do."

"If he is sincere, the words he said at Holy Redeemer would be put out to all the churches in the archdiocese," Schell said. "We had asked for a statement years ago which could be read in all the churches. That still hasn't been done. If he wants his words to have weight, let his words be read from every church in the city of San Francisco, not just one church in the Castro." ▼

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A project of the Lesbian Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, in conjunction with the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of San Francisco and Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Jail Guard Charged in Killings

NEW YORK CITY—A former city jail guard who had been arrested in conjunction with the murders of two gay men July 23 attempted to take his own life July 25. Darryl Smith, 26, was in custody when he attempted suicide. Smith has been charged in the deaths of two men whom police described as prostitutes in June. He was arrested during a violent scuffle with another man with whom he had had sex and was attempting to rob. Smith is charged in the killings of Joseph Washington and Stanley Tindal, both of whose bodies were found near Pier 40 on the Hudson River. Smith was listed as being in stable condition in St. Vincent's Hospital.

—Associated Press

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Don't Take It For Granted

San Francisco's domestic partners ordinance continues to be in the news and this week the news was good. The *Chronicle* Poll surveyed city voters and found that a majority of San Franciscans supports the ordinance. The *Chronicle* reported that 54 percent of those surveyed plan to vote to keep the ordinance on the books.

That's very good news. We could end up handing the militant right-wing its first defeat at the polls. Unlike other initiative campaigns we've fought over the years, we're starting out on the plus side instead of having to fight an uphill battle of basic education on human rights and who gay people are. With nothing more to go on than the news reports over the last few months, most San Franciscans have already made up their minds to be on our side.

Even more encouraging is the fact that the *Chronicle* Poll indicated city residents favored extending the legislation to include health benefits equal to married employees. It's only fair, as one respondent said.

Those who identified themselves as gay supported the ordinance by 92 percent. Non-gay respondents favored it by 49 percent. Younger and better educated people favored it by higher percentages over those with lower incomes and less education.

But the gray specter that hangs over San Francisco politics threatens to undo all the good intentions of our fair city. Among those most likely to vote in an off-year election—older conservatives—support for the ordinance dropped. We are reminded once again that San Francisco has a strong conservative streak that every now and then wreaks havoc on city politics. The liberal northeastern tier of the city makes the headlines while the southern and western neighborhoods throw roadblocks into our progressive path.

Remember district elections in 1980? That referendum on supervisorial election by neighborhood districts succeeded because too many people presumed the results would be in their favor. The liberals stayed home while the conservatives went to the polls and captured the victory.

That election, regardless of how you feel about district elections, is a textbook case in how to lose an election. Don't let over confidence take away our rights. There is nothing to take for granted. Don't presume the repeal of the domestic partners ordinance can't happen here. Don't count on your liberal straight friends to cast your vote for you. Make sure you get out and vote.

Curioser and Curioser

The strange case of Lynn Griffis, formerly assistant pastor of Metropolitan Community Church, got stranger and stranger by the minute last week. The woman who claimed to have been the victim of two assaults and numerous threats may have been the perpetrator of those threats and fabricated the stories of the assaults.

To say the least, Ms. Griffis owes this besieged community an explanation. If she in any way made up the assault stories, she owes us all an apology. And if she placed the death threats herself, she may need psychiatric care. Her fleeing San Francisco is not the answer we deserve.

The real victims of real violence that occurs everyday across the U.S. have been done a serious disservice by her claims. If Griffis thought she was doing anybody a favor by publicizing anti-gay attacks in this manner, she was sadly mistaken.

There are more than enough incidents of verbal, physical—many times lethal—violence against lesbians and gays, no one needs to start inventing them. A recent national survey counted over 7,000 incidents in 1988. The San Francisco Police say they get ten reports a month. But most people never even report the assaults they experience. In part, they don't report those assaults to the police because they fear further abuse, ridicule and neglect by the police. Griffis's actions may have made the situation worse for those who have been genuinely victimized by violence.

We have to focus on the very real problem of violence. We have to remember the very real victims of that violence. And we have to remind society of those facts that are not wiped out by the behavior of one person. Our cause is not diminished and our battle not over until the violence against us stops.

WHAT WEIRD NEW
LESBIAN RELIGION
HAS EGG ON
EVERYONE'S FACE?



GUEST OPINION

Open Letter from the Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski

The National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski is proud to announce that it has achieved its primary objectives and is closing its doors. At this time, we would like to extend our thanks to the many organizations and individuals who have participated in our efforts through their generous support of our activities. Sharon Kowalski is receiving rehabilitative care in the Minneapolis area, she has access to Karen Thompson and other friends, and we have broken Donald Kowalski's stranglehold on his daughter's life. Without the support of the community we could not have achieved these things.

Many organizations provided support and advice. Special thanks are due to the National Organization for Women, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and innumerable local lesbian and gay organizations across the nation. The Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund advised us about ways to spread word of the case to disability rights activists and supporters. Connie Panzarino of the Boston Self-Help Center, and Marilyn Saviola of the New York Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski and the Center for the Independence of the Disabled in New York, offered us powerful education about ableism, and Boston Self-Help also served as a fiscal agent. Special support in Minneapolis was given by the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council, Rainbow Women, and the Nursing Home Action Group. Significant financial support was provided by grants from Astrea Foundation and the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Gay and women's bookstores across the country prominently displayed Karen and Julie's book *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?* and supported us with book parties, space to sell buttons or collect donations, and access to tabling for cards and petitions. Spinster/Aunt Lute took the risk to publish the book at a time when litigation in the case was still pending. The book will continue to tell the story of this important case for years to come.

Finally, we thank the individual and institutional endorsers and supporters of National Free Sharon Kowalski Day. Perhaps more than any other activity we undertook, NFSKD was the event that succeeded in making the case a national issue and achieving a breakthrough into the mainstream media.

The case of Sharon Kowalski has been instrumental in focusing the attention of the lesbian and gay community on the need for domestic partnership protections, which is sure to be one of the biggest community issues of the next decade, as well as teaching us about the need to have durable power of attorney documents and wills right now. It has also raised community consciousness about the rights of people with disabilities to access to all areas of life in our society as a whole and in our community in particular. Karen Thompson's determination and her refusal to give Sharon Kowalski up for dead have made possible the education of hundreds and thousands of lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities about the rights we have and must protect, and the rights we do not have and must fight for. The battle to free Sharon Kowalski from her prison in Hibbing is over, and every person who ever responded to our appeals can share that victory. But we must remember that cases like this one are happening every day. The war for all of our rights to equal protection under the law has only begun.

Information, Please

The following was sent to the Russian River News.

★ In response to an article in the *Bay Area Reporter* (July 6), we were surprised to read Mr. Dean Leshner's comments regarding his memo on the reporting of non-family events in his papers. While the *Russian River News* may contend this is a local problem with the *Contra Costa Times*, we think it's fair that his statements are examined in view of the fact that Mr. Leshner owns the *Russian River News*, *Bodega Bay Signal*, *Sebastopol Times & News*, *Healdsburg Tribune*, and the *Buyers Guides* to most of Sonoma County and northern Marin. In short, after the *Press Democrat*, this man controls most of the newspapers in our county. His memo of policy is frightening in the fact of how he plans to edit the news as he sees fit. While he may not be exercising this control yet over our area, we certainly feel the threat is there. We would appreciate it if the *Russian River News* would clarify its stand on this memo since it is a member of the Leshner "family." This is an important issue for our area and will directly affect our advertising dollars and the continued patronage of your newspaper.

Sincerely,
Bob Young,
Joe Lilley,
Wayne Sapp,
Hail Lyman Reynolds,
Douglas Bohling,
Michael Saunders,
Great City Realtors,
Guerneville

The *Russian River News* published the letter and the following response.

★ The *Contra Costa Times* is owned by Dean Leshner, who criticized the front-page dominance of a wire story on San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Mr. Leshner and his managing editor, Bill Walters, have conservative viewpoints that they believe represent the bulk of their readership. Whether or not their beliefs hold true to fact is a matter for their readers to point out.

At the same time the readers should realize that the newspaper, while it offers a community service, is still privately owned and can publish—or not publish—as it sees fit.

The publicly stated policy of Mr. Leshner has been to offer various other communities such as ours differing editorial opinions by enabling those communities to have newspapers; and to not interfere with those opinions and policies.

As some of our more conservative readers have reminded us, we have done a whole lot of coverage of liberal issues. On the other hand, our more liberal readers think we're too conservative. That must mean we're offering a balanced coverage of our multifaceted community.

Never has our editorial content been questioned by the ownership of this newspaper. Indeed, we like to think it was our feisty and unpredictable content that made Mr. Leshner look at us in the first place.

In the long run, the policy is this: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. And at the *Russian River News*, it ain't broke.

Common Courtesies

★ To inform "Gay Pride" organizers:

Individuals of the loosely organized "Dykes on Bikes" approached our prep-area, on parade day, to accost the owner of a speed boat.

With multiple rappings on his craft and demands to "get this thing off our street," he, out of intimidation and concern for his rig, immediately withdrew his participation from the day's events, creating the loss of an expensive and important element to our contingent.

Furthermore, and as a result, we were caused a forced, untimely and therefore misplaced entry into the parade lineup.

In striving for a well-planned and executed event, such as this, we need be aware of common courtesies and the necessity of working together.

Seldom does personal aggressiveness further this objective.

We are, after all, the "City that Knows How."

Jim Baroni,
Don Johnson,
San Francisco

Good Grace

★ When determining finalists last week for the Bartender of the Year contest the Court of The Lion & The Lady is underwriting in support of the AIDS Emergency Fund, we found the following note in the ballot box of a Polk Street bar:

"A brief note protesting the use of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome as a parade horse for your ego trips. Please... have some respect for yourself and we PWAs."

As creator and coordinator of the contest, I'd like to respond to the author of this note.

There have been bare-chest competitions, slave auctions and wet jockey shorts contests in support of people with AIDS, and in support of organizations educating the public about it and trying to identify a cure for it. Bars pulling together to support the AIDS Emergency Fund with a "popular bartender" contest seems quite tame by comparison. No doubt you find all of it bizarre and tasteless... and possibly you are among the fortunate minority who, stricken with AIDS, has good insurance, private income, supportive family and friends to sustain you.

I think the many—less self-sufficient—who are still alive, well fed, and with a roof over their heads through the assistance of AIDS Emergency Fund and other such volunteer service organizations are less inclined to be critical of what might be perceived as "parade horse" fundraisers.

There are thousands in this city knocking themselves out to raise money in support of people with AIDS in the best way they know how—for some that's performing in benefits and for others it's organizing them. Others put on nuns' habits and shake collection cans in the streets, or dance on a runaway in their underwear, or put themselves up for auction. And others, less dramatically, give hours of their time to prepare and/or deliver meals, or shop and clean house for people unable to do it for themselves, or volunteer as aides in hospitals, or walk pets. And some merely attend fundraising events, and give what they can give.

Whatever they're doing, they're doing their best. I'm proud to be one of them, and it's been a great privilege to meet and work with many of the others. I resent your comment about "ego trips." If you can't appreciate what many of us are trying to do for you and many others coping with the affliction of AIDS, you should at least have the good grace to keep your opinion to yourself.

Gary Menger
San Francisco

Worthy Cause

★ In re: AIDS Benefit Counselors.

I'm writing as a PWA to ask the community to help this very worthwhile organization, a "not for profit" organization that helps PWAs/PWARCs cut through all the government red tape. They surely helped me when I desperately needed help in applying for Social Security benefits.

Both Martha (Marty) Ball and a great guy named John Beattie were there for me when I needed them. These unselfish and caring humanitarians are paid by contributions from the community and don't ask for any money from PWAs who they help get Social Security, regardless of what large payment or retro-check may be involved. I went to them on March 30 to get the paper work started and received my first SSDI payment on July 1 of \$667.

These guys and gals are lawyers who totally volunteer a great amount of their time, and go out of their way to relieve stress that PWAs/PWARCs may be under. I truly believe that both Marty and John are a gift to this community. I am writing this letter to make the community aware that this very worthy organization needs all the financial support it can get. I hope that those of you who can find it in your hearts will get your checkbooks out and write them a check for \$5, \$10, \$25 or whatever amount you can afford.

Their address is: AIDS Benefit Counselors, 1547 California St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Their phone number is 673-3780.

Eric Lewald
San Francisco

The New Puritanism

★ I think puritanism just lay low for awhile and resurfaced as feminism. Feminists (including my feminist lesbian "sisters") constantly downgrade my appearance, my enjoyment of S&M activities, and my work in the sex industry. Forget about patriarchal oppression! There are now quite a few of us younger lesbians who are just saying no to oppression of any sort—feminist oppression included! To paraphrase the infamous feminist rag, "Get off our backs!"

Sophie Neubert
San Francisco

Shopper's Query

★ My best friend in the whole world is moving to Miami, and I'm concerned: Do they have Macy's stores in Miami?

Sandy Burnell
San Francisco

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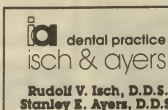
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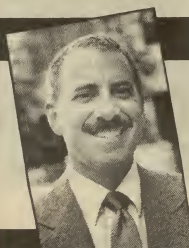
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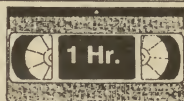
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The AIDS Clinical Research Project of Children's Hospital of San Francisco is now seeking individuals with symptomatic HIV infection to study the safety of DHEA and its effects on the immune system in HIV infection. DHEA is a hormone present in the human body and secreted by the adrenal glands. We plan to enroll 24 people who will take oral DHEA for 16 weeks. Participants will be closely monitored by lab tests and physical exams. Further information may be obtained by calling the ACRE project at 750-6529.

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LETTERS

Dykes with Debts

★ I've just attended my second "rent party" this month to raise money for two friends who happen to be lesbian mothers. Both of these women chose to become mothers for a myriad of reasons. Yet, I wonder how much real thought went into their decision to have children, given their precarious economic situations.

These two cases are not isolated incidents. I am hearing about more financial hardship cases among lesbians with children all the time these days. I wonder if the lesbian community has given any thought as to the consequences of motherhood without real financial support. Are we condemning many of these children to a life of homelessness and instability, given the strained financial circumstances many lesbian mothers find themselves in at any given time?

I realize lesbian motherhood is viewed as a sacred cow in our community. However, I would like to see some articles written that address some of the more complex questions and issues related to lesbian motherhood, such as: the ongoing peer pressure among lesbians to have children, whether they can afford them and/or want them or not; the question of whether or not lesbians should have children, given the large number of women in therapy for ACA issues, alcohol problems, emotional and physical abuse problems, incest, rape, etc., as well as the shaky financial conditions many lesbians find themselves in; the consequences of engaging in sex with men (AIDS) and/or inseminating via turkey basters and other forms of donated sperm (especially from immediate family members) and the health and emotional impact that has on a child, specifically the child's identity; the breakup of relationships (with resulting "new" partners/lovers) where children are involved and the emotional and financial toll that these changes bring to a family and to the lesbian community; and lastly, an upfront discussion of the phenomenon of dykes with tykes as it relates to a large portion of the lesbian community who neither desire nor want children in their lives. Are our lesbian relationships suffering because of this phenomenon? Is the army of ex-lovers/co-mothers too strong a bond to break for mothers and children, thus resulting in pressured and/or unacceptable new lover relationships? Are we opening ourselves up for more family abuse issues because of these changes in our relationships?

These are controversial topics. However, I think a discussion is warranted, given the lifestyle changes that are occurring within the lesbian community.

Liz Wilson
Oakland

III-Conceived Notion

★ Responsible gay community leaders should all have their proceed-with-caution buzzers ringing like crazy over the ill-conceived notion of a gay community center that is being proposed that would be linked to the Metropolitan Community Church—or to any other religious organization.

As helpful to us all as the MCC in San Francisco has been in providing facilities for myriads of groups, any kind of official venture that would automatically tie the overall gay community to a church organization in the slightest manner would be an obvious invitation to disaster.

Politics and religion would inevitably become intertwined. Such a foolish venture should be categorically rejected outright by thoughtful individuals of all political and religious convictions. The potential for yet another failure to create a true gay center that is beholden to no special faction or group is tremendous.

Yes, we need a community facility. But we absolutely do not need one connected in any fashion to a religious organization such as the MCC, no matter how nice we may think these good Christian folks may be.

Come to your senses, people. After several failed attempts to create a viable center in this city, we do not need yet another abortive attempt that is ill-advised. We need a facility like the one in Los Angeles that can serve the plethora of needs of our multi-cultural community without any possible conflicts with religious organizations. In these times of tight finances, we must not toss our resources down another well-intentioned, but doomed, project such as the one that is currently under consideration by MCC.

Dusty Helsabeck
San Francisco

Music for Literature

★ Regarding gay folks and disco divas, it makes no sense at all to attempt to invalidate the just and righteous rage of an entire gay generation at the hatred and bigotry of corporate interests and homophobia queens (Summer, Bryant, Coors). Donna Summer has yet to apologize for her antigay comments which blame gay people for being sinful and

wicked (shades of the Roman Catholic Church!). Coors has yet to apologize to gay people for their hateful and homophobic invasions of privacy of potential employees. And, for the record, Anita Bryant got her "come-uppance" when lesbians and gay men flexed collective national muscle and told her where she could pour her juice, leading to an out-pouring [groan] of support from many non-gay folks and to new level of respect for our community. (I don't know about you, but I drink orange juice with relish...) It is *not* wrong for us to recognize and empower ourselves through our anger with bigots and homophobes, no matter their size, political strength, artistic talents, or their supposed penitence. It is deeply unhealthy for us as gay people to simply deny or avoid our anger, since doing so usually leads to an internalization of homophobia and other self-directed, negative beliefs about ourselves. This is what an anti-gay mentality desires, for it is then that our voices are silenced.

Listening to Donna Summer's lyrics in her latest recording, "This Time I Know It's For Real" will make conscious how she is making a plea for somebody to listen to her and take her "love" seriously. How can we take her "love" seriously when she has not taken her own purported philosophy of unconditional love seriously? When Donna publicly (and nationally) says, "I was wrong and I am sorry for what I said about gay people," and when she puts her money (earned from the pockets of the very gay men that she devalues) into the needs of the community, then I will consider buying her records. Until then, her records can rot, just like her reputation as *one more* born-again bigot who is trying to use gay DJs. It would serve all of us for none of us to be taken in by her obvious talent and doubtful sincerity; thinking with our gay hearts and remembering with our gay consciences will provide us with perspective. Otherwise, as a *people struggling for justice*, we all lose if any one of us does anything less than affirm a gay sister's or brother's stand against hate and bigotry, again, *no matter* where it is encountered. It does matter that we are failing to share our experiences with each other, and we would all do well to learn from these experiences or we will repeat them until we do learn.

If we talk with each other from open hearts and learn about the battles of the recent past, we can honorably hang together against continuing anti-gay bigotry, no matter how prettily it is sung or how danceable it may seem. We do not need to dance to the beat of still another self-righteous, moralistic homophobe: our feet can create or find beautiful dances and our voices can make or seek out empowering songs.

Jim Lovette
San Francisco

Some Recognition

★ I must commend you for having Mr. Marcus writing a column all these years. He certainly captures the spirit of the leather community both at their work and at their play—with all the titled contests thrown in.

I was particularly disappointed in this week's issue about the Leather Daddy Contest. While it was well written and some very hot photos by Mr. Marcus, himself, why were there not any photos of the first runner-up and the second runner-up. I saw with my own eyes Mr. Marcus taking their pictures when the hoopla was over that night. Didn't they come out or is there some prejudice on someone's part?

Keep up the good work. Just a little disappointed that there were no photos of the runners-up—after all, they did go through the rigors of the contest too and deserve some recognition, if only a photo.

Jason Mancini
San Francisco

A Little Publicity

★ Whom should we blame? The editor or Mr. Marcus? We are very disappointed that there were no photographs of the runners-up in the Leather Daddy Contest at the Eagle last Friday night and we are voicing our protest.

One of our friends was in the contest and made a good showing and was a runner-up, but nowhere was a runner-up photo in this issue (August 3). You always show runners-up in the Bare Chest Contests, Mr. South of Market, Daddy's Boy, International Mr. Leather, Mr. Drummer. Why no photo of the runners-up in the Leather Daddy contest?

Poor, poor, poor. Shame, shame, shame. If you are going to "cover" these events, it would be nice if the runners-up got a little publicity, don't you think? I know Marcus was taking pictures of all the contestants. Where were they?

J. Dolgren,
S. Smith,
A. Rodriguez
San Francisco

Revoke Tax Exemption

The following was sent to Sam Duca, Tax Assessor, City & County of San Francisco

★ Dear Mr. Duca:

I am demanding that you immediately void the tax exempt status of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco and of First Orthodox Presbyterian Church of San Francisco. This is because both of these organizations have used church property and money to influence the domestic partners legislation (civil legislation which has no direct impact on them) in San Francisco which is, I believe, a clear violation of the conditions of their tax exempt status.

Furthermore, they urged the signing of a petition, a secular political act, from their pulpits and actually circulated the petition during their church services. In addition the archdiocese made the petitions available at their chancery at 445 Church St. which is, I believe, exempt from property taxes.

I am, quite frankly, sick and tired of paying higher taxes in order to support the parasites because those who are charged with upholding the law are too cowardly or craven to challenge them when they break the law. James Bond has a license to kill, number 007. It would appear that the above churches have been issued licenses 003 and 005, licenses to lie and steal. If either Charles McIlhenny or John Quinn had any honor whatsoever they would voluntarily stop feeding at the public trough. However, since there is no honor among thieves they will not: not until you step in and enforce the law.

I will leave you with two quotes from Benjamin Franklin: "If ministers of God approve of a thing, it is a sign it is of the devil," and "When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it, so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil powers, 'tis a sign I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

And one quotation from Thomas Jefferson: "It is error alone that needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself."

Ken Clark
San Francisco

Separate Church and State

This letter was sent to the San Francisco Examiner in response to a letter which was printed Aug. 2.

★ My being a lesbian does not deny the right of Kathie Calden her religious beliefs or her expression of them. But as a "Christian," she is denying my right to sanctify my relationship with my life-partner.

The San Francisco domestic partner legislation is not a religious debate. Too much time is already wasted debating religious doctrine and not enough time is spent living in the spirit of love and compassion. But, when the doctrine of a few becomes the law of many, then that law is oppressive. Today, it's gay men and lesbians—tomorrow it may be racially-mixed couples, new immigrants, non-Christians...

Domestic partners is about the separation of church and state. We need to join together to prevent myopic religious views from becoming law. Because you might just wake up tomorrow and find that the law has turned on you.

Cindy Bologna
San Francisco

Power of Gay Money

★ I support the boycott of Donna Summer and all performers who express their hatred of us.

The pitiful material of Eddie Murphy and Sam Kinison never surprised me, since most male comics earn their living putting down women and gays. But I was shocked to hear the many homophobic remarks made by Shirley Bassey in the early '70s. She was followed closely by Gloria Gaynor, and later Donna Summer.

These were women we adored and impersonated, and whose careers were financially successful largely because of our support. They have never apologized to us, in fact, Donna Summer now denies ever making her remarks.

Are we really supposed to believe David Taylor-Wilson's column, when he says Donna Summer has lots of gay friends, yet she was unaware of the gay boycott? Or that when she was given a chance to deny the "rumors," she declined, and chose to quietly sit by while her career went down the toilet?

Bullshit! No one in her right mind would allow millions of dollars in record sales and concert dates to slip through her hands because of unsubstantiated rumors.

The way I see it, once we made her successful and she became a powerful force in the record industry she thought she didn't need us anymore, and felt comfortable enough to state her anti-gay feelings. I

would love to have seen the look on her face when she realized the power of gay money.

And now, like the much degraded crabgrass, she's back. All of a sudden (after seven years of failures) she has decided to deny the "rumors." How convenient.

Many of you may remember Richard Pryor's 20 minute diatribe of homophobic remarks that ruined the "Save Our Human Rights" benefit in 1977. He has since apologized to us and I appreciate that.

Mary Wilson publicly acknowledged the tremendous gay following the Supremes enjoyed throughout the years, and thanked us for our loyalty and support.

But all we've gotten from Donna Summer is "If you don't trust me, don't buy my records." Well, Donna, you took the words right out of my mouth.

Let's have enough respect for ourselves to boycott homophobic artists and performers and the gay businesses that promote them.

Joe Reilly
San Francisco

An Officer and a Gentleman

★ The following was sent to the San Francisco Police Department, c/o Captain Michael Brush.

Dear Captain Brush:

I am writing to you on behalf of Robert Durino and myself to let you know the outstanding job Officer James Barron, badge #130 did on the evening of May 26, 1989.

Officer Barron responded to a call made by Robert Durino. Mr. Durino, on arriving home, found his roommate and partner in life Merrill Bransford dead. Bob called 911 and Officer Barron responded.

Needless to say, at a time like this everything seems to just stop and the nightmare begins. In a city of great difference in lifestyles, Officer Barron was at all times an officer and a gentleman, and for this I want to say thank you. Officer Barron helped make the horror of that evening just a little more bearable with his understanding and compassion.

Please let Officer Barron know how much we appreciate everything he did that evening. If there were more officers like Officer Barron, I'm sure our city would be an even better place to live.

Richard N. Wright
San Francisco

Antielimax

★ One of life's minor tragedies is standing in a long, long line at the Castro Street Station, finally making it up to the mirrored two-man urinal, and discovering that you're standing next to your ex-lover.

John-Michael Olexy
San Francisco

Ultimate Sport

★ I partially concurred with Mr. Allen's letter in reference to bodybuilding not being a sport. Surely, this kind of non-competitive activity is an extension of the narcissistic and augmentation of the ego that so many lesbians/gay men cherish. Even the word gym, used in "muscle gym," is a misnomer. To the Random House unabridged second edition dictionary, the word gym is a "building equipped for indoor sports." Bodybuilding is not a sport.

Why not experience an outdoor sport, a sport that allows one to smell the fresh air of the Marina or Golden Gate Park, a sport where the body, while mobilized, is like a car cruising the beauty of the city in awe. A sport where one can derive so many health benefits, i.e., improving the immune system and the cardiovascular system. An aerobic sport that results in self-esteem, muscular legs, beautiful posture, strong buttocks, firm abdomen and acquiring a positive addiction.

Running is hard. Endurance, consistency and time are the keys to its success. The thrill of the race is truly the ultimate in competition. Run a marathon, then tell me about what is the ultimate sport or who is the ultimate athlete.

Art Alcantar
San Francisco

Write to B.A.R.

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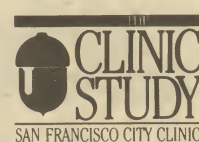
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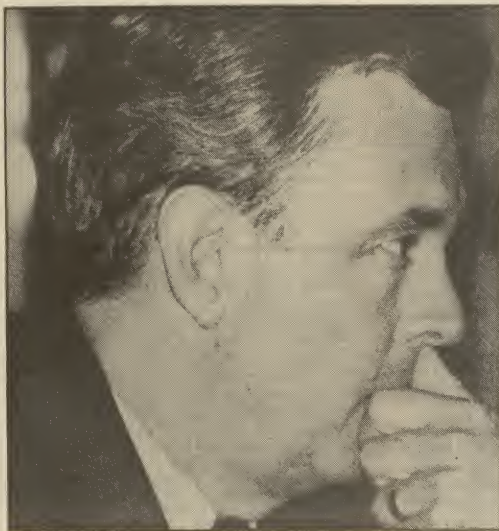
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Wayne Friday

Van de Kamp Beats Feinstein In Polls



Attorney General John Van de Kamp.

(Photo: Rink)

With the 1990 state elections already in high gear and with less than a year before the June primary, figures this week announced by the California Poll, show that Attorney General John Van de Kamp has, for the first time, pulled ahead of former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein in the Democratic gubernatorial campaign—both in voter choice and in campaign finances raised.

Based mostly on the strength of solid support in his native Southern California, Van de Kamp, according to the new California Poll, leads Feinstein statewide by a 44-37 margin, and tops Feinstein in fundraising by a three-to-one margin. As of June 30, Van de Kamp had raised \$1.9 million to Feinstein's \$566,821.

Both Democratic candidates, however, trail Sen. Pete Wilson, the expected GOP nominee for governor, by huge margins in both voter appeal and campaign fundraising.

Mervin Field, who conducts California Poll, attributed Feinstein's drop in the polls, in which she previously led, to the fact that she is currently not holding public office.

In other polls conducted by Field, San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith trails

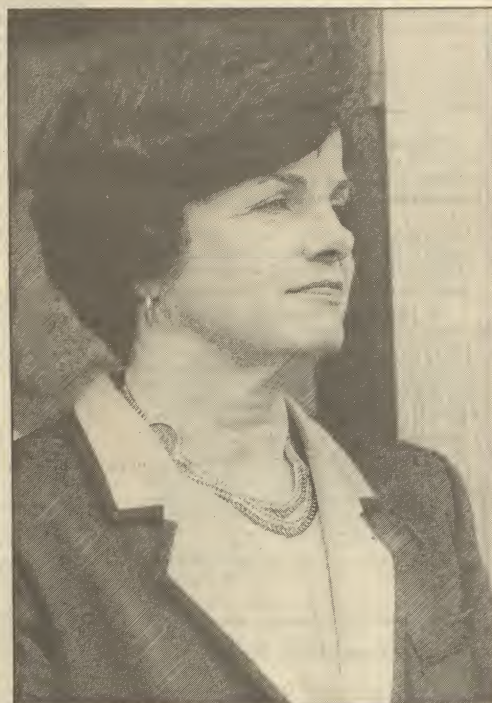
L.A. D.A. Ira Reiner in the Democratic race for attorney general. But Smith enjoys a higher "favorable" rating among those who have heard of both candidates than does Reiner, suggesting that getting his name better known is the key to success.

In the race for lieutenant governor, incumbent Democrat Leo McCarthy, as expected, leads both of his potential Republican opponents, while incumbent State Treasurer Tom Hayes, a Republican, leads both his GOP primary opponent and his expected Democratic opponent, Kathleen Brown.

In another statewide race expected to draw big names and a high profile campaign, incumbent Insurance Commissioner Roxani Gillespie, a Republican, faces a strong challenge from Democrat Assemblyman Tom Hayden, who has as yet not announced his candidacy, but is expected to do so.

While Hayden leads the field of potential Democratic candidates, he also has the dubious honor of being the candidate with the highest name identification. But Hayden is also the most disliked, according to the California Poll. The poll found Hayden is known by 72 percent of those polled statewide, nearly twice the

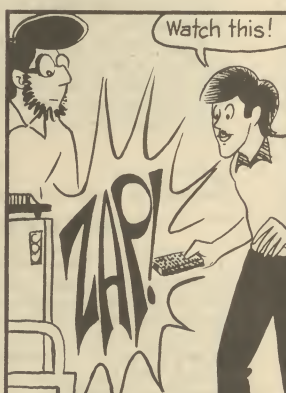
(Continued on page 23)



Gubernatorial hopeful Dianne Feinstein.

(Photo: M. Hicks)

MURPHY'S MANOR



Believe It or Not

It was the kind of place I should have visited with a friend. But I couldn't convince any of my friends that a visit there would be worthwhile.

"You've got to be kidding," they said. "You really want to visit the Ripley's Museum?"

"Believe it or not," I replied, "I do."

"But why?"

"Free tickets. Besides, there might be an article in it, even for a gay newspaper primarily devoted to politics and penises."

I'm not sure what I expected to find. Certainly I knew I wouldn't see an exhibit labeled "The Man With the World's Largest Cock." But it has long been my contention that every story has a gay angle. If so, I'll find it. If not, I'll make one up.

Consequently, ignoring the ridicule of friends, I took advantage of a promotional offer to explore "the amazing world of Robert L. Ripley, the world's most famous collector of the unusual and the bizarre," located across the street from Fisherman's Wharf.

"The unusual and the bizarre." Did that mean tit piercing, fist fucking, disco dancing and lip-synching? No, the first things I saw after entering were a guitar made from a French bidet, a cable car made of matchsticks, and a pieta made of paper bags (inspired by an exhibition of Michaelangelo's famous sculpture at the New York World's Fair in 1964). Of course, these were nothing compared to the grain of rice imprinted with the Lord's Prayer.

Alas, none of these things were even remotely gay. Then I saw it. On a reproduction of a "Believe It or Not" column dated May 26, 1940, I read, "James Schwabe graduated from a school for girls! Receiving an A.A. degree from Christian College, he is the only man ever enrolled at this institution."

I couldn't believe it. A man at an all-girls' school? He must have been queer! At last, I had found what I was looking for.

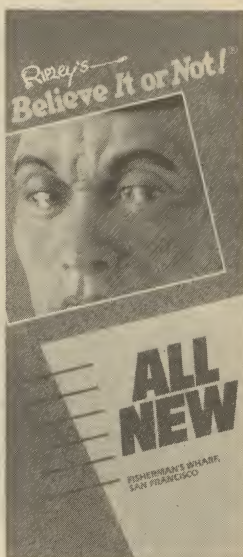
Unfortunately, that was it for a while. On another column reproduction I read, "Chauncey L. Kiser, Ardmore, Okla., drinks kerosene! It takes the swelling out of his feet and reduces high blood pressure."

"So big deal," I thought. "Believe it or not, Chauncey, I eat AZT! It causes my legs to cramp and destroys my white blood cell count, but it postpones K.S., pneumocystis and toxoplasmosis. Isn't that great?"

Other items were even more mundane than the Chauncey L. Kiser bit. One, dated 1940, claimed, "Mrs. Vivia Meara commutes 184 miles daily. She lives in Sacramento and works in San Francisco, Calif."

"So?" I wondered. "This is supposed to be unbelievable? People must have been easily impressed in those days."

Getting restless, I dropped a quarter in a "Sex Tester" machine, something the museum provides to keep the customers awake and to bring in a little extra cash. Lights flashed and swirled, moved across the face of the machine, and eventually illuminating the box marked "Tender." Satisfied, I wandered on. It was better than being



labelled "Lonely," "Conceited," "Corrupt," "Unfaithful," or—worst of all—"Mama's Boy."

Near the two-headed lamb exhibit I noticed the group of articles found in the stomach of cows. It was nothing compared with the articles found in the assholes of some of my friends.

Nor was I impressed by the claim to fame of one Alfred F. Decker of Norfolk, Va., who (in 1937) wore "a jockey cap day and night—even while sleeping." Hell, I've had friends who have worn jockstraps day and night—even when fucking.

Backtracking a bit, I discovered a photograph of "The Skeleton Dude." According to the museum literature, "Edward Hagner (1892-1962), who toured circuses billed as 'The World's Thinnest Man,' grew to 5'7" tall, but weighed only 48 pounds! Stricken at age 8 with Simmond's disease, a form of malnutrition caused by a ruptured pituitary gland, 'The

Skeleton Dude' did not gain a pound for 62 years!"

Call me humorless if you like, but I did not find this pathetic tale the least bit amusing. Nor did I enjoy the pictures of people impaled by pipes, swords and pieces of machinery—and "lived to tell the tale!"

Even more gruesome were the videos of the man rotating his head 180 degrees, the man smoking with his eyes, the man driving 6-inch spikes into his nostrils, and the man pulling a loaded cart by means of a cable attached to his lower eyelids. The only things this particular exhibit lacked were the barf bags.

Further along, I passed through a mock graveyard featuring "humorous" epitaphs from around the world. ("Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and no place to go.") Perhaps it's just my point of view, situated as I am at the heart of a devastating epidemic, but all this was beginning to seem a little morbid to me. The final blow was the hologram providing a view from the bottom of a grave. It was a view I could well do without.

Years ago I realized that when my only response to a given situation was cynicism or disgust, it was time to move on. So move on I did—rapidly—past the natural disaster exhibit featuring volcanos, earthquakes, tidal waves and the like.

As I left, wondering why on earth people are intrigued by these kinds of things, I heard an adolescent girl shout to her companion, "Ooh, Tiffany, come here. You've got to see this. It's too gross."

"What? What have I missed?" I asked myself. "Has she found it? The Man With the World's Largest Cock?"

Turning around, I retraced my steps, but only for a moment. Thinking better of it, I exited the museum in a hurry, without checking to see what the fuss was about. After all, some things, even big dicks, are best left to the imagination—believe it or not. ▼



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Harvey Milk Club to Sponsor

5th Annual Women's Blood Drive

On Saturday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club will sponsor its Fifth Annual Women's Day Blood Drive at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the Castro.

Recognized for its contribution to the alleviation of transfusion costs to persons with AIDS, the AIDS/ARC Blood Fund was established in 1985 by women in the community. The urgent appeal for blood that year generated an outpouring of support from women of the Bay Area and today, thanks to their continued support, a successful group account for those who must meet the rising costs of a blood transfusion has been maintained.

With an increase in the use of AZT therapy in the treatment of AIDS, an escalation in the number of transfusions has been seen. Since 1985 nearly 700

blood credits have been issued, saving much needed monies for people with AIDS and ARC.

As a special service to the lesbian and gay community a mobile unit from Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of the San Francisco Medical Society will set up donor tables in the cafeteria of Most Holy Redeemer Church. Women interested in donating can call 863-6761 for an appointment so we can plan for adequate staffing and minimize waiting periods.

For those unable to participate on that day, appointments may be made for donations to our account in the name of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank directly.

For more information on The Women's Day Blood Drive or about how the AIDS/ARC Blood Fund operates call Lenore Chinn, coordinator. ▼

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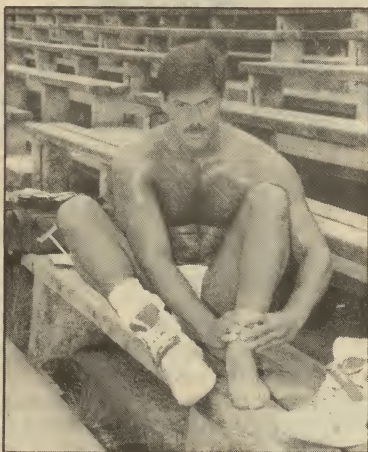


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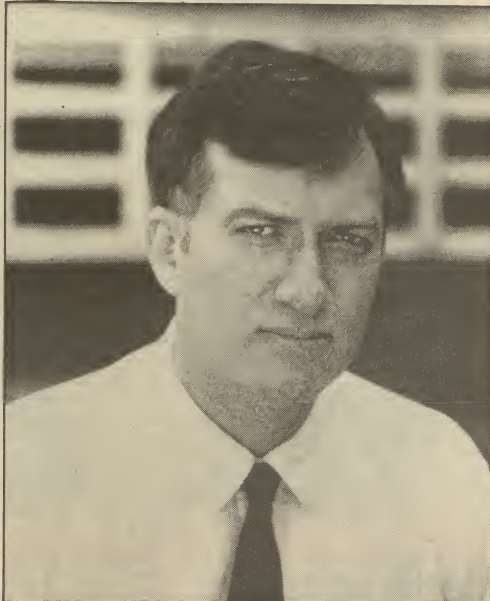


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KITS-FM Won't Renew DJ Contract

Broadcast of Homophobic Comic Violated Station Policy



Zane Blaney of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against
Defamation. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

by Dennis McMillan

The contract for KITS-FM radio personality Alex Bennett has not been renewed, in part for hosting homophobic comic Sam Kinison against station policy. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Bay Area chapter may have unintentionally helped contribute to his firing.

On July 17, the expiration date of the Alex Bennett Show contract with "Live 105" radio, the management decided not to renew. This came a week after a July 10 meeting held with Bennett, KITS management, including producer Lori Read and program director Richard Sands, and GLAAD representatives Zane Blaney and Sharon McCauley.

At the beginning of the meeting, GLAAD played outtakes from Kinison's performances, including his comment: "Safe sex? Get off our back! Because a few fags fucked some

monkeys... because of this shit they want us to wear rubbers."

When accused of not being sensitive to gay issues, Kinison in his comedy routine said, "Nothing to start a fucking fag war over. They say I'm not sensitive. Sensitive? Aren't you the same guys that tape up gerbils and shove them up your ass?"

GLAAD then confronted Bennett for supporting Kinison and claiming on the air that the comic is not anti-gay, that "only stupid people would say that Kinison was homophobic."

Bennett further defended Kinison saying, "Sam is a satirist who goes after everybody, especially people who take themselves too seriously."

In an interview Kinison was quoted as saying, "If the gay community thinks that there isn't a major resentment by the American public for the disease that they've caused, then they're nuts."

Walker

(Continued from page 1)

form their duties," said T.J. Anthony of Judiciary Project.

Walker had also been defeated in October last year after a five-hour long hearing and due to the efforts of the Judiciary Project with T.J. Anthony, and civil rights lawyers Abby Ginsberg and Mary Dunlap.

Walker's consideration for the position had been stopped because of his controversial and homophobic attitudes, most especially as attorney for the USOC against the late Tom Waddell in the Gay Olympics Games case.

Sen. Pete Wilson had present-

ed his nomination of Walker to the president, who in turn formally submitted Walker's name to the U.S. Senate, which must confirm all court nominations. The issue then went before the Senate Judiciary Committee for action.

President George Bush could choose to again nominate Walker in the future. Sen. Cranston promises to oppose any future consideration of Walker.

Anthony pointed out Walker's conduct in prosecuting the Gay Olympics Games case and his mistreatment of Waddell, refusing to lift a \$96,000 lien against Waddell's home until the founder of the Gay Games died a year later from AIDS.

Anthony further elaborated on Walker's liabilities, including his former membership in the Olym-

Also present at the July 10 meeting were Randy Schell of the San Francisco Department of Public Health Victim Services Advisory Committee, Lester Olmstead-Rose of Community United Against Violence, and Paul Boneberg from Mobilization Against AIDS.

Ed Krampf, general manager, later told GLAAD representatives that they had a small impact on the decision not to continue the show.

Sharon McCauley, member of the GLAAD board of directors, had previously written to the station concerning Bennett's defense of Kinison and objecting to his writing off a flood of phone calls protesting the station's promotion of Kinison concerts as "gays who have nothing better to do because their last demonstration is over."

Bennet read McCauley's letter on the air and called her a bitch.

Blaney said that Bennett became irrational at the meeting. "We were subjected to screeching insults and a wagging finger from (Bennett) condemning those present," he said.

Blaney said Bennett accused them of being fascists, censors, and lazy about AIDS, and then slammed the office door shouting, "Fuck off!"

The GLAAD people and their supporters continued their meeting for an hour and a half with the remaining KITS management team concerning on-air promotion of Kinison.

"I think Krampf and other members of the staff were very sensitive and responsible, listening quite attentively," said Blaney. "They probably were considering a format change before we met with them, and we just happened to arrive during that time. This might have been the straw that broke the camel's back."

GLAAD officials said it was not their intention to have Bennett taken off the air. It was their goal, however, to stop Kinison "publicly perpetuating blatantly homophobic and inaccurate information about gays and lesbians."

The Bay Area Reporter was unable to reach KITS management for comment.

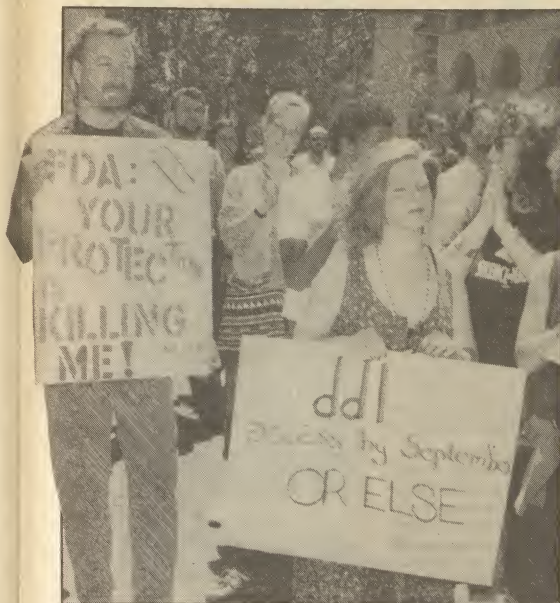
It should be pointed out that the station in the past has been fairly supportive of gay causes, has aired several programs dealing with AIDS, and played Harvey Fierstein's GLAAD/Los Angeles public service announcement and a piece against shock jocks' defamation of gay people. KITS also plans to air Bob Hope's PSA on rights for gay men and lesbians. ▼

pic Club, an organization with a stated policy discriminating against women, racial minorities, people with AIDS, lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

Walker previously testified that he had no experience handling civil rights cases, where the 18-member bench has heard over five such cases in one year.

Walker has also represented only one pro bono client in the court of his 16 year legal career, the no-fee defending of hardship cases having been called by the American Bar Association "an ethical imperative."

The Judiciary Project is not the only opposing force against Walker. Numbered among his opponents are Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, Lawyers for Human Rights, La Raza Lawyers, Black Women Lawyers



Demonstrators demand FDA action on new drug. (Photo: Rink)

ACT UP Demands FDA Release New Drug

Protest Slams Feds for Red Tape On Treatment Less Toxic Than AZT

by Dennis McMillan

More than 100 ACT UP/San Francisco activists demonstrated Tuesday, Aug. 1, in front of the Old Federal Building at U.N. Plaza demanding free access to ddI, an antiviral drug similar to AZT but believed to be 10 times less toxic. The peaceful demonstration was a prologue to an anticipated Aug. 8 meeting with FDA officials and ACT UP representatives, where treatment issues concerning dideoxyinosine (ddI) will be discussed.

According to Susan Yarín, spokesperson for the Bristol-Meyers Company which manufactures the drug, Bristol-Meyers has offered ddI at no cost to people with AIDS on a compassionate use basis until phase two testing for efficacy is completed.

ACT UP is concerned that the FDA will interfere and block availability to the HIV-infected needing ddI.

The demonstrators formed a large ring in the plaza and marched carrying placards with messages such as "FDA: Federal

Death Agency or Fast Drug Access?" and "You Gave Us Hope; Now Give Us ddI."

They repeatedly shouted in unison, "We demand ddI, before many more die!"

"The FDA has had a history of footdragging," said Mike Greathouse of the Treatment Issues Committee for ACT UP. "Now with ddI this is a kind of test case to see just how fast they will release the drug."

John Belskus, a founding member of the ARCAIDS Vigil, whose tent headquarters were located just 20 feet away, promised the demonstrators would engage in no disruptive action this time. But he warned the FDA that if ddI was not released by September there would be civil disobedience.

Lewin Usilton of Healing Alternatives Foundation said a major problem will be assuring access to the expensive drug by people on limited incomes.

"We're here today for the

same reason as always—getting treatment—once it is proven non-toxic, past the FDA regulations and into the hand of people who desperately need it," said Joanie Marquardt of PISD (People with Immune System Disorders) Caucus. "ddI is another treatment getting bogged down by FDA red tape."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi sent a statement: "Access to ddI must be assured to people with HIV infection beyond the option to participate in phase two clinical trials. I call upon Bristol-Meyers and the FDA to cooperate in every reasonable effort to make this drug available as soon as possible to all those people who have failed or proven intolerant of standard treatment with AZT."

Rene Durazzo of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation appealed to people across the nation to call for accelerated and broad release of ddI. He alerted the crowd to a recent change in AIDS funding by Congress. "Yesterday appropriation committees in the House, in approving a basic Reagan White House budget for AIDS, decided they would no longer treat AIDS in a special category or have a designated AIDS fund," said Durazzo.

"We must let Congress know that we will not tolerate a business-as-usual approach to AIDS funding," Durazzo asked people to write their representatives and to address letters to the Senate and House appropriations committees in Washington encouraging the preservation of the AIDS consolidated funding account.

Terry Beswick, member of Community Research Alliance, exhorted people to take control of their lives. "We're putting the FDA on notice today that we cannot wait any longer for their decisions about treatment."

ACT UP then staged a "die-in" demonstration in front of the FDA headquarters, outlining bodies with chalk on the pavement and writing messages demanding ddI access.

Bill Thorn from the Treatment Issues Committee, leading the demonstrators and spectators in a chant, "FDA, the ball's in your court," hit a tennis ball inscribed with "ddI" over a huge, 20-foot banner stretched out like a net. The banner stated, "ddI Before We Die."

ACT UP volunteers closed the event by handing out hundreds of colorful foam rubber balls for spectators to lob against the Federal Building while several activists rolled a giant ddI beach ball through the doors.

"Next time it won't be a party atmosphere like this," warned ACT UP leader Peter Altman. ▼

Association, Coalition for Civil Rights, NAACP, National Lawyers Guild, National Organization for Women, People for the American Way, every lesbian and gay Democratic club in California, and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors—all of whom sent letters protesting the nomination.

Every member of the Board of Supervisors with the exception of Bill Maher signed a letter June 8 to Sen. Joseph Biden, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which short-circuited the hearing Walker was to have then.

In the letter the board went on record as having opposed Walker's judicial nomination since February 1988 and stated it was "dismayed to learn that President Bush has chosen to renominate Mr. Walker par-

ticularly in view of the full investigation conducted by the Senate Judiciary Committee last year which revealed several disqualifying records... and gives cause for our considerable worry over Mr. Walker's ability to be a fair and impartial jurist."

The letter further elaborated, "The people of this district are entitled to a more dignified and honorable choice. We have no confidence at all that Mr. Walker is capable of dispensing justice fairly and urge the judiciary committee to reject his nomination."

Sen. Alan Cranston has consistently blue-slipped the Walker nomination—a term for an objection by a home-state senator to a nomination. Cranston had sent an April 4 letter to the committee against Walker's nomination, prior to the senator's first formal

opposition.

"Pete Wilson has now satisfied whatever political obligations he may have owed to Walker for the thousands of dollars pumped into the senator's campaign over the years and Bush has satisfied whatever political obligations owed by him to Wilson," said Anthony.

Mary Dunlap said the effort to defeat Walker "should not be mistaken for a political campaign—it is more specifically a campaign to keep the unqualified off the bench."

Dunlap explained, "He is unqualified by reason of lack of ethics and compassion, not to mention his past recalcitrant insistence on remaining a member of the Olympic Club when it is such a bastion of discriminatory attitudes." ▼

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Connie O'Connor: Classroom to Courtroom

When Connie O'Connor received her B.A. degree and teaching credential from San Francisco State University, the last place she expected to end up working was the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. Yet, for the past 14 years, she has been Deputy Sheriff Connie O'Connor, rising through the uniformed ranks to her current position as a lieutenant and commander of the Court Services Division.

Following college, Connie taught first and second grade for four years in a small San Francisco private school. Frustrated by a constantly shrinking salary and a lack of future stability, she decided to see what was available in civil service.

Faced with the choice of being a "meter maid" or a sheriff's deputy, O'Connor thought, "Well, why not give the Sheriff's Department a try?" It paid twice as much as teaching and it was unconventional to boot.

"I hated the job at first," she said. "Going into the jail was culture shock; it was a depressing place to be." It brought back unpleasant memories of her personal encounters with the juvenile justice system, where she spent time in juvenile hall and attended a school for girls for three years.

Lt. O'Connor has seen a lot of changes during her tenure in the department. When she started, the women were told to "go out and buy a blue skirt and white blouse and just show up for work."

She added, "There was no training whatsoever. A gun was supplied for my use. I had never handled a gun before in my life."

For women, promotional opportunities were few and far between. Women deputies were assigned only to the women's jails; men and women deputies were hired from different civil service lists.

Connie is enthusiastic about the changes Sheriff Mike Hennessey has instituted throughout the department in general, and for women in particular. New deputies undergo three weeks of rigorous training, in areas such as jail security, firearm safety and AIDS education. Uniforms are a standard issue in the department, with a \$400 per year uniform allowance.

More than 60 percent of the deputies in the department are women and minorities. Women are on an equal footing with men for promotions and key assignments. Indeed, in addition to O'Connor, there are women in such key non-traditional positions as facility commander, budget officer and training officer.

Lt. O'Connor can lay claim to many "firsts" in the Sheriff's Department. After a year at the Hall of Justice and three months at the Police Academy, she became the first woman deputy to work in administration. This was followed by serving as the liaison to the lesbian and gay community for then-Sheriff Richard Hongisto, the first position of its kind.

It was a positive learning experience. "I found a total difference between the (gay) men's and lesbian communities," says Connie. She was introduced to the "courts," the gay bars and the activist community.

"People were very receptive. They were glad to see the Sheriff's Department reaching out," she said.

This experience led her to involvement with the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay democratic Club, which she served as president for two years in the early 1980s.

Connie continues a family tradition of political involvement. Her mother, a dedicated volunteer in campaigns for Democrats including Adlai Stevenson, John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, was an active unionist and the administrative aide to the legendary Longshoreman's Union leader Harry Bridges.

As Connie recalls, "I was always involved with political campaigns. Bobby Kennedy's was the first campaign where I was finally old enough to vote for the candidate!"

Another first for Connie was being the first sergeant to support Mike Hennessey in his race for sheriff in the 1979 election. Concerned about the lack of a work furlough program for women, she was supportive of Hennessey's commitment to implementing the program.

After Hennessey became sheriff, he selected O'Connor to direct the first women's work furlough program in San Francisco.



Lieutenant Connie O'Connor.

co history. She took on added responsibility as the first director of the entire work furlough facility.

In her current position as commander of the Courts Division, Lt. O'Connor supervises 65 uniformed deputies, 14 of whom are women. They are responsible for the security of the 45 courts in the Hall of Justice, City Hall and the Youth Guidance Center and the transportation of custodies under psychiatric care.

The first lesbian in the position, O'Connor follows in the footsteps of other successful women Sheriff's Department commanders. She credits the support of these women as being instrumental in her success.

O'Connor's concern for her troops and for those they protect is evident. As commander of the Courts Division, she instituted an in-house training program for the bailiffs, with bailiffs acting as training officers during the four-week training course.

Connie's activism extends to the community. She is in her fourth term on the Democratic County Central Committee and last September, Mayor Art Agnos appointed her as a Recreation and Park Commissioner.

Her initial trepidations long past, Lt. Connie O'Connor never regrets making the transition from school teacher to deputy sheriff. She will continue to be a trailblazer in the San Francisco Sheriff's Department! ▼

TWA Opens Up Ticket Plan

NEW YORK CITY—Trans World Airlines has announced that it has changed its policy as of July to allow frequent flyers to give their free tickets to any companion who is flying with them. The new policy is in part the result of a lawsuit filed by a gay man who was prohibited from getting a free ticket for his lover last year.

In a letter to a Boston gay activist, TWA vice-president for marketing Stephen Daniels stated, "We are aware of the non-traditional lifestyles prevalent in our society and our sole interest is in the promotion of travel, not social commentary."

Under the new policy, a customer may give a free ticket to anyone as long as that person uses the free ticket on a flight with a paying customer.

A spokesperson for the airline said that the company had changed its policy in response to complaints not only from gay people but from many others who had wanted to use their frequent flyer credits for someone other than a legal spouse.

In late May, William Johnson had filed a lawsuit against TWA for denying him the use of his credit points to get a ticket for his lover.

That suit was under negotiation for settlement when the announcement of the new policy came. Johnson's attorneys are still negotiating the reimbursement of the \$2,983 he paid for his lover's ticket.

Among major airlines, only Pan American restricts its frequent flyer programs to legally married couples.

—Washington Blade

18th Street Svcs Director to Resign

18th Street Services, a San Francisco non-profit substance abuse counseling agency for gay men, announced that its executive director, Jerry De Jong, has resigned effective Aug. 18, to take the newly created post as coordinator of HIV Asymptomatic Services for the Department of Public Health AIDS Activities Office.

De Jong has been executive director of 18th Street Services since May 1986. During his three-year tenure, the agency's annual budget has quadrupled from about \$101,000 to \$405,000, the staff of the agency has grown from three to 15 members, the agency moved to larger space at 217 Church St. (at Market), and it began street outreach and counseling to Tenderloin residents and homeless youth in the Polk Street area. ▼

Coast Guard Panel Wants Admin. Discharge for Gay Petty Officer Hopes To Take Issue to Court

by John McCloud

A three-member hearing board of the Maintenance and Logistics Command of the U.S. Coast Guard issued a recommendation July 26 that Petty Officer Ricardo Huertas be separated from the service in response to his own admission of being gay. Once a report and transcripts of the hearing are complete, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Coast Guard Commandant in Washington for final action.

Although the commandant has authority to ignore the board's recommendation, according to Chief Hearing Officer Lt. Cmdr. Robert W. Brach, the likelihood is the commandant will acquiesce and issue Huertas an honorable discharge.

The Coast Guard maintains three classifications relating to homosexuality. Class I deals with cases that involve coercion or assault. Class II covers cases of consensual sex while on active duty. Class III, under which Huertas was charged, covers acknowledgement or discovery of homosexual tendencies but without engagement in sexual activities.

Huertas, a 27-year-old radarman third class who served three years in the Army, one year in the Army ROTC and one year in the Army National Guard prior to his enlistment in the Coast Guard, has vehemently protested the board's decision. He threatens to sue the Coast Guard whether or not he is allowed to remain in the service.

His basic intention, he says, is to complete his current tour of duty and then attend medical school to become an Army doctor. He plans to sue for \$1 million.

Unfortunately, legal observers say that given the current judiciary climate his chances for a successful suit are slim. As Brach explained at the hearing, regardless of Huertas' performance in his duties, Coast Guard regulations specifically mandate either exclusion or discharge of known homosexuals.

"If the conclusion [that Huertas is homosexual] is reached," he said, "the policy of the Coast Guard is clearly set forth, in that homosexuals will be separated from the service."

Although the Coast Guard operates under the Department of Transportation rather than the Department of Defense, its regulations effectively parallel those of other branches of the armed services, all of which ban gays.

Leonard Graff, legal director of National Gay Rights Advocates, concurred with Brach's legal view, commenting, "Military law is clear: gays are not allowed to serve, period."

The case stems from Huertas' own action on Jan. 25 when he informed his executive officer aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Rush that he is homosexual. He said that, after 90 days of being on ship, he could no longer perform his duties in an atmosphere that included constant anti-gay comments from some of his shipmates. The comments

were not directed against Huertas personally but were part of standard shipboard talk.

Huertas was immediately relieved of duty and reassigned to a position issuing tools at the support center in Alameda pending official action.

No action was taken until early this summer when the command informed Huertas that a hearing of his case was scheduled for July 12. The petty officer says he requested and was granted an extension until September in order to give him time to round up testimony from former shipmates in support of his character.

But on only two days' notice the Coast Guard abruptly moved the date up to July 26.

Huertas, who went public with his story, claims the sudden rever-

sal was a response to his getting stories in the Alameda *Star-Bulletin* and Oakland *Tribune*.

"I embarrassed them, and they wanted to get rid of me as fast as they could," he said. "They know what they are doing is wrong, and they don't want to face up to it."

The Coast Guard, however, contends that it had never set a specific date for the rescheduled hearing and had made the final scheduling based on docket availability.

Huertas, a divorced father with a 5-year-old son, says he is very angry, at the gay community as well as the Coast Guard.

"I didn't get support from anyone," he says. "I tried everything except the ACLU. The gays just gave me the name of a



Takin' It To The Street

Members of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club were out on Castro Street drumming up support for the domestic partners ordinance.

(Photo: Rink)

private lawyer, but I don't have the \$120 he wanted just to talk to me."

In support of NCRA's handling of the case, Graff pointed out that his organization is not a legal clinic and cannot take on every case that comes along.

"The military charges about 1400 gay men and lesbians every year," he said. "We try to select test cases that will set a new

precedent. We don't have the resources to take it all on. We referred Mr. Huertas to the Gay Legal Referral Service."

Since the petty officer has acknowledged being gay, the only grounds for winning a suit would be by demonstrating the Coast Guard's policy to be unconstitutional.

In regard to this, Graff added, (Continued on page 23)

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Handicapped Center Agrees on Pool Use

by Allen White

The Recreation Center for the Handicapped, which earlier had barred handicapped people with AIDS the right to use their swimming pools and therapeutic facilities, has completely reversed its position and embarked on a model program of AIDS education.

They have also begun scheduling groups from the Peter Claver Community Center and Coming Home Hospice to use their pool. They have submitted a corrective action plan, which was demanded by the city's Social Services Commission, that calls for training of the center's board, staff, clients and parents on AIDS, homophobia and sensitivity to ethnic minority communities.

"This represents a complete reversal of the posture taken by the center's board and directors three months ago, and a lesson to other government contractors that HIV-related discrimination will not be tolerated," Social Services Commissioner David Neely said. The center receives a \$1.2 million annual contract from the city.

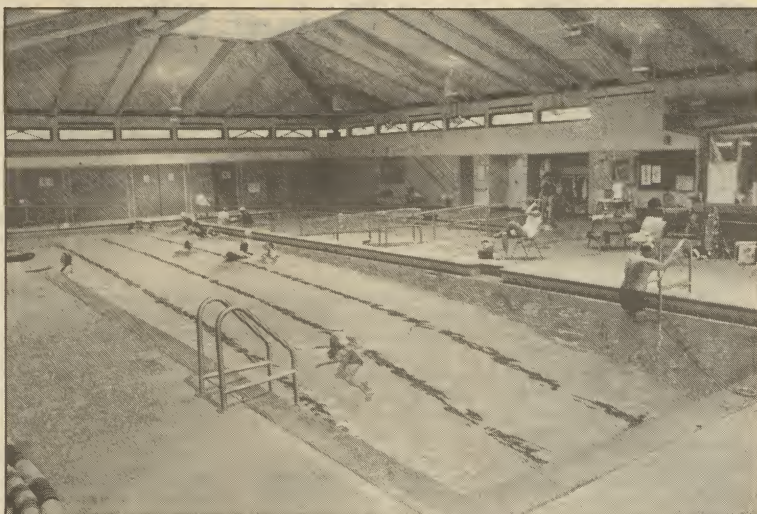
The Peter Claver Community Center began using the pool on June 14 and will continue using it on a regular basis. Programs for Coming Home Hospice are expected to begin soon, and the Recreation Center for the Handicapped is cooperating to provide transportation.

In March the center's board rejected a request by the Claver Community residents for use of the pool, pending further study of whether other clients might catch AIDS from swimming in the same pool.

At the time, they chose to consult with a person they believed to be an expert. The expert they chose, according to Rick Ruvalo, an aide to Supervisor Harry Britt, was San Francisco General Hospital's Dr. Lorraine Day. "Dr. Day generates these problems all over the city, and we have to live with them," he said.

Day was the subject of controversy last year when she forced the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank to move a blood drive out of the Castro because she claimed AIDS would be spread if blood was given at Holy Redeemer Church.

The drive was to encourage lesbians to give blood, the lowest risk group in terms of getting AIDS. The blood raised at these drives were to be used to help people with AIDS. Day received considerable media attention before she was stopped, and her attacks did seriously hurt the effectiveness of the annual blood drive.



Recreation center pool for the handicapped.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Rick Ruvalo said the problem at the Recreation Center for the Handicapped was "exacerbated when they brought in Lorraine Day to advise them on the possibility of transmitting AIDS in the pool. When they called Dr. Day I do not know, but we have practically everyone else at San Francisco General available to them."

With the problem apparently resolved Ruvalo said, "I was, of course, pleased with the report. Rarely is such a serious problem resolved so quickly. We will continue to monitor Recreation Center progress, but we are confident that people with AIDS or HIV-positives will have access to all center programs."

Star Chefs Present 'Symphony of Tastes'

Hundreds of the city's food lovers and people watchers will gather under the stars at the War Memorial Opera House on Thursday evening, Aug. 17 at 7:30 p.m. for the first annual "Symphony of Tastes," presented by chefs Jeremiah Tower, Bradley Ogden and Jan Birnbaum to benefit Meals on Wheels of San Francisco.

Louise K. Molinari and Patricia W. Klitgaard will chair the black tie gala, which will introduce San Francisco to the symphony and variations produced by 24 chefs and 20 wineries that will be tasting and sampling concert.

Thanks to the patronage of honorary chairman, Sam Bronfman II and the sponsorship of Seagram Classics Wine Company, House of Seagram, and Safeway Stores, Inc. every dollar raised will go directly to provide meals for the homebound elderly of San Francisco.

Members of the benefit committee expected to accept the gustatory challenge and attend are: Herb Caen, Russ Coughlin, Lily and Joseph Cuneo, Belva

Davis, Dianne Feinstein and Richard Blum, Ann and Gordon Getty, Denise Hale, Tom Horn, Bob Ross, Gail and Albert Schlesinger, Lynne Newhouse Segal, Phyllis and Walter Shorestein, Charlotte and Mel Swig, Rose-lyne and Richard Swig, among others.

Wine committee chairman Anthony Dias Blue has invited 20 wineries to pour their best wines at the gala. Participants include Sharffenberger Cellars, Iron Horse Vineyards, Domaine Mumm, Buena Vista Winery, Carmenet Vineyard, Lyeth Winery Ltd., Chateau St. Jean, Fetzer Vineyards, Wente Bros., Simi Winery, Beringer Vineyards, Cakebread Cellars, Silverado Vineyards, Cuvaision, Inc., Robert Mondavi Winery, Bandiera Winery, Mirassou Vineyards, Charles Krug, The Monterey Vineyard and Sterling Vineyards.

Tickets are priced at \$150 each and include cocktails, dining and dancing to Swing Fever. Further information about the gala and ticket availability may be obtained from Mary Ann Chighieri at Meals on Wheels of San Francisco, 495-3333.

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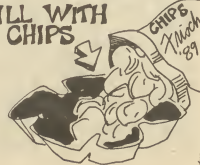


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Dannemeyer Loses—Again; House Ignores Amendment

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—The U.S. House of Representatives on Aug. 2 successfully scuttled an effort by Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Fullerton, Calif.) to ban the federal funding of schools with gay and lesbian youth outreach and counseling programs by a 279-134 vote on a tactical maneuver.

Early in floor debate on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1990, Dannemeyer expressed his intention to introduce an amendment which would ban the use of any federal funds under the bill to "promote" homosexuality or "instruct" children about the "activities of homosexuals." But he was defeated when it was not allowed to be introduced on the House floor.

Decrying the fact that the Labor HHS Appropriations Bill this year offers a 9 percent increase over last year's spending, Dannemeyer added, "If all appropriations bills in the House have growth in them over what was spent last year, we'll never balance the budget of the United States."

Dannemeyer then stated that his amendment would seek to address "an issue of growing importance in America, namely, whether or not our society will accept and equate homosexuality on a par with the heterosexual lifestyle."

Immediately, Dannemeyer went on to discuss Project 10, a Los Angeles School Board program geared at counseling gay and lesbian youth, as seeking to "instruct children in that school district in the activities of homosexuality." He denounced the fact that the program indirectly receives federal funding through the local school board.

After Dannemeyer sought to discredit the program by quoting from "a homosexual newspaper" which called the program a "leading" institute addressing issues of concern to gay and lesbian youth, openly gay Rep. Barney Frank, (D-Mass.) took a verbal jab at the California Republican.

Making reference to Dannemeyer's June 26 insertion of a lengthy and explicit discussion of the gay and lesbian political movement and what he described as "activities peculiar to homosexuals"—which included the insertion of "certain vegetables" and "lightbulbs" in each others' rectums—Frank asked Dannemeyer a rhetorical question.

"I just wonder," asked a smirking Frank, "having read the material the gentleman from California put in the *Congressional Record* of June 26, whether the material he put in the *Record* would be illegal under his own amendment?"

In an official July 26 letter, Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr. (D-Ind.) asked a House ethics panel to censure Dannemeyer for the written comments and that the comments be stricken from the *Record*.

"I would like to ask my gentleman," retorted Dannemeyer, before being cut off by the gavel. "If you give some additional time, I'll respond," he pleaded.

"The time of the gentleman has expired," stated the Speaker Pro Tempore. Dannemeyer was not granted more time to introduce his amendment.

At the end of the debate on the bill, with time quickly running out, a visibly enraged Dannemeyer again took the floor to denounce homosexuality, "promote the heterosexual ethic" and rail against the AIDS policies of New York and California which have renounced mandatory HIV antibody testing, reporting and contact tracing.

After Dannemeyer challenged a voice vote, the roll call vote came down 279-134, closing off debate and barring Dannemeyer from offering the amendment. The sharply partisan vote saw only six Democrats voting against the motion and 43 Republicans crossing party lines and voting for it.

In other action on the bill,

several House members rose to express their concern that in the Appropriations Committee's report, proposed funds for AIDS research were, for the first time, not earmarked in the bill.

Stating that he was "concerned" about the omission, which would make AIDS research compete with other diseases for National Institutes for Health research funds, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles) stated, "I would ask (Mr. Natcher) for assurance that the absence of the table and of specific line-items does not represent any diminishing of response to the AIDS epidemic."

"The committee remains strongly committed to funding the AIDS research and prevention," responded Natcher, noting the bill's 24 percent rise in AIDS funding over last year's levels.

Waxman was later joined by Reps. Barbara Boxer, Nancy



The House of Representatives didn't go for Rep. Dannemeyer's latest idea. (Photo: Rink)

Pelosi, and Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.) in praising the work of Natcher and ranking committee Republican Rep. Silvio Conte (R-Mass.) and urged them to work with the Senate to guarantee the AIDS research funds.

Another issue in the bill of concern to AIDS activists—the bill's ban on funds to a federal survey of sexual behavior—was not addressed at any point in the floor debate. ▼



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The project functions on volunteer energy (neither of the two directors—Joe Brewer or Martin Delaney—draw salaries). The information hotline also needs daytime volunteers.



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Michael Larry Sichi
"Seekey"
1959-1989

Born Halloween's child 1959, Michael died peacefully, on July 31, at home in Berkeley of AIDS. Michael grew up in



Page, AZ, and moved to the Bay Area in 1978, where he was last employed at Yellow Van, transporting senior citizens and the disabled throughout the city.

He is survived by his mother Sharon of Aztec, NM, his grandmother Gloria of Phoenix, his father Mike and brother Kenneth of Page, AZ, his sister Katherine of Ames, IA, and Rod Ottinger his special friend and companion from diagnosis to death.

Since leaving Pacific Presbyterian Hospital in mid-June, Michael was cared for by his mother, grandmother and Rod, assisted by the gentle and kind support of Alta Bates Hospice. Michael showed courage, dignity and humor in facing his illness.

A memorial celebration of his life will be held on the patio of the S.F. Eagle, Monday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m.

Michael B. Speicher
Aug. 14, 1947-July 5, 1989

"His cheerful disposition and neatness of appearance are but a few of his outstanding attributes." This was written by Mike's commanding officer in recommending him for the Bronze Star.



It seems so contradictory that such a peace-filled person ever went to Vietnam.

He was general manager of Traditional Imports Furniture Company.

Our beloved friend left us on July 5, after a long and valiant struggle with AIDS. Mike lived life with zest, a wonderful smile and lots of Windex.

He is survived by his lover, Ross; sisters, Mary, Theresa; brother, Butch; mother, Lilian; friends, Ernie, Dan and Eric.

A memorial mass will be held at Most Holy Redeemer on Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. Please contact Dan at 431-5680 for further details.

Please make donations to the AIDS charity of your choice.

We love you, Michael B.

▼

John L. Athey

Dec. 27, 1945-July 5, 1989

Our loving friend, John, died after nearly six years of struggle with AIDS, finally succumbing to CMV retinitis, PCP pneumonia, and toxoplasmosis. John was born in Silver City, New Mexico. He is survived by his stepmother, Adeline Athey of Cliff, New Mexico.



John's life was a miracle of longevity. He was not supposed to survive birth. Much of his earliest years were spent in an oxygen tent. He survived a severe heart attack

in his late 20s. Sweating his way to health by jogging, he dropped 40 excess pounds, and developed a strong body. He ran in at least five Cay Runs, the last in 1987.

John earned three degrees in radio broadcasting; he worked for 22 years at commercial, public, and armed forces stations in New Mexico and Colorado. For 13 years he was program director of the first 100,000 watt FM station, KRWC-FM, Las Cruces at New Mexico State University where he taught broadcast journalism. He developed the largest radio audience in the state.

John came to San Francisco to take over program directorship of big bang station KMPX, discovering upon arrival the station had been sold to become a rock station. John retrained himself as a legal executive secretary.

In spite of homophobia and AIDS-phobia that he encountered, John worked steadily during the first four years of

his illness, paying enormous insurance premiums and profiteering costs of medications not covered by insurance. By sheer stubbornness, incredible effort, and with the help of spirited friends who advised him, John said, he repeatedly outlived the predictions of his doctors.

The last three months of his ordeal were greatly eased by the compassionate help of Visiting Nurses & Hospice of San Francisco. John refused to accept hospice residence. Achieving his last goal he died peacefully in his own bed.

At John's request his ashes are scattered at the foot of a great Valley Oak where he flew kites, near an almond orchard he loved to visit in Rumsey, Cal.

John wanted his epitaph to read, "He cared." Friends can show they care about John by sending donations in his name to Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco.

Norman Kim Wong
Jan. 1, 1951-July 31, 1989

After a year's battle with AIDS, Norman is now at rest. He never complained about his suffering, but chose a positive outlook to his illness.

Norman's interests were quite varied,

but his greatest loves were the children he taught, opera season, conducting, the theatre, and eating a variety of good foods. The children at school were by far his greatest joy. These last few weeks were filled

with a longing to see them receive the proper attention each one needed and deserved. Their best interests were paramount.

His home for many years was merely a stopping off point between many jobs which were more like hobbies to him. He loved getting involved with projects and seeing them through. Unfortunately, the last few months, he was unable to fulfill all his wishes. He faced this situation with bravery and dignity.

Norman is survived by his parents Ling and Francis Wong, by his brothers Raymond and Frederick. He leaves his lover and constant companion, Jack, and many loving friends, Alan, Marianne, Jim, Don, Winston, Cecil, Fred, Ken, Daryl, and his kids at home—Gallagher, Giacomo, Gaetano and Gulliver. We all love you.

For information about a memorial service or the scholarship fund, call 255-7034 or 585-6037.

Bob Kimball

Bob Kimball passed peacefully from this life Saturday evening after a courageous struggle with the AIDS virus.

Bob was born in Yonkers, New York, and attended college and graduate school there. He was an anthropologist by training, with a special expertise in Southeast Asian Studies. He lived for many years in Indonesia, Bali and Sarawak. Here in San Francisco he had his own marketing research company, Pathways.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife and caregiver, Dianne, his daughter Elizabeth Jean and many loving and caring friends here and in the East. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. at 1517 York St., San Francisco. Friends are most welcome. At Bob's request donations in his memory to: Open Hand, 2720 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94110, would be appreciated.

▼

Charles Matthew Jefferson

June 27, 1958-Aug. 1, 1989

Surrounded by his parents and by much love, Matt Jefferson departed this world peacefully the morning of

Aug. 1, at R.K. Davies Medical Center. His confrontation with AIDS, which began more than two years ago was often difficult but valiantly faced and has now found its end.

Born and raised in Georgia, Matt is survived by his parents Charles and

Sarah, his sister Wanda, his brother Mark and a number of relatives who loved, supported and surrounded him with their prayers and caring. In addition to his family and bounty of relatives, Matt leaves behind friends in both Georgia and San Francisco.

Like a priceless jewel, Matt was unique and multi-faceted with a fiery sparkle that burned from within. A spirit truly determined, he was genuine and generous, fun loving and caring, he enjoyed a good time and was often found creating the moment, or embellishing one already in progress. His absence is felt and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral service and burial were held Aug. 5 in Georgia. A memorial service in San Francisco will be held at Duboce Park, Saturday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m. for those wishing to say goodbye or to remember him in spirit.

Contact Ineka at 864-3233 if additional information is desired regarding this memorial service/celebration of Matt's spirit and life. Farewell and much love. ▼

Mark W. D'Angelo
Feb. 24, 1949-Aug. 1, 1989

Mark W. D'Angelo died in San Francisco on Aug. 1. Mark worked as a unit coordinator in the ICU of Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center. Previously,

he had his own balloon business, worked in a yoga school and had a varied career.

Mark had a special love of life, nature and people, especially the finer and more unusual qualities. He loved

his family, meditation, spirituality, opera, ballet, theater, singing, poetry, Black Sand Beach, Land's End, England, Mount Tamalpais, his mom's fruitcake, chocolate, champagne, anything almond, apricots, baking bread, cooking and sharing special moments with special friends. His big blue eyes and bigger heart won him many friends and his ability to love intensely gave him great pleasure and pain.

Mark was the beloved son of Yolanda Coulter and the late Mario D'Angelo. He is also survived by his brother Stephen, sister-in-law Diane, nieces Melanie and Cyndi, all of Massachusetts; brother John, Sandy and nephew Craig of New York as well as many loving, caring friends who saw him through his transition.

Special thanks to Open Hand; to Dr. Alison Lavy and staff; to the entire Garden Unit of Garden Sullivan Hospital and to Family Link. Your loving care helped Mark and all of us immensely.

Donations may be made to Open Hand, Family Link or to the charity of your choice. Omnia miss ya, Munchkin! Amor vincit omnia!

Christopher John Poole

Aug. 24, 1956-July 21, 1989

Born in Essex, England on Aug. 24, 1956; entered into rest July 21, he is survived by his parents Burnett and Nancy of Arroyo Grande; his brothers Martin and Micah; sisters Tessa and Penny and their families; his lover of five years, Phil Bachelor, and many friends in San Francisco and the Central Coast.

In 1983 Chris moved from San Francisco to Arroyo Grande. In 1985 he received an MBA from Cal Poly. Leather gave way to camping, orchid growing and creating

a warm home with Phil.

Chris' diagnosis in 1987 helped create a positive awareness of AIDS in the Central Coast. He was a member of Central Coast Lambda Society; past Vice President of AIDS Support Network. Also, he was a member of American Orchid Society, and Fraternal 15 in San Francisco.

There will be a San Francisco celebration of Chris on Sunday, Aug. 12, from 4 to 6 p.m.; 1177 California St., #711. RSVP to 563-6658. Donations may be made to AIDS Support Network, 108 Garden St., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

Chris' smile, dimples and sense of humor will be missed by all who loved him. Sleep tight, Snookie, you are loved big bunches.

DEATHS

Donald Jarosz

Donald Jarosz, formerly of San Francisco, died June 30 in Manhattan of AIDS. He was well known in San Francisco and New York City for courses of study that he wrote, developed and taught in law office management. He was on the faculty of San Francisco State and St. Mary's College in Moraga where he taught paralegal courses while he was affiliated with a San Francisco law firm as director of administration.

An accomplished author in the field of law office management, he was associate and book review editor of the *American Bar Association Journal* in the early '70s. One of his cover stories received a citation and was reprinted in *The Congressional Record*. For the last eight years he was director of administration for a New York law firm, but he often came to San Francisco to visit his many friends.

Donald was a sweet and gentle man who enjoyed his life to the fullest, especially in the old days at the Ambush and NoName, and who fought until his peaceful end.

His ashes have been divided with half going to his surviving parents, Louis and Victoria, one-fourth being scattered on Fire Island and the remaining one-fourth to be scattered at the San Francisco headlands overlooking the Golden Gate. Anyone wishing to attend the latter may call Jack Green for information at 621-5262.

Bias

(Continued from page 1)

step forward in the nation's battle to conquer the epidemic of AIDS," stated Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA).

"When the Americans [with] Disabilities Act is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush, we will have implemented the most important recommendation of the President's Commission on the HIV Epidemic, the Institute of Medicine and literally thousands of public health experts across America," he said.

The bill would in essence implement last summer's recommendations of President Reagan's AIDS Commission, which endorsed a broad civil rights law for persons with disabilities including persons with HIV disease. The employment provisions of the bill would guarantee job security for people with AIDS and HIV infection and for persons thought by employers to associate with others who have AIDS or HIV infection.

The bill also requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations on the job for those with known disabilities, including AIDS and HIV infection.

In public accommodations, the law will also be critically important in ensuring fairness and access to services for people with AIDS and HIV infection. All forms of businesses and service providers are covered by the bill's anti-discrimination mandate: hotels, restaurants, food stores, clothing stores and other places that provide services, homeless shelters, schools and health spas—to name but a few.

The key requirement, for people with AIDS and HIV infection, is that proprietors of such establishments will no longer be allowed to refuse to serve or to turn away people with AIDS or HIV infection.

Under the bill, a person could file suit in federal court if she or he had been discriminated against because of HIV disease in any of its stages, from asymp-

Bishop Itkin Dies

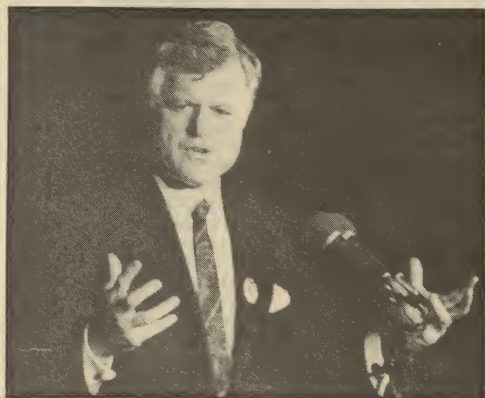


The Rt. Rev. Mikhail F. M. Itkin, Bishop Primus of the Community of the Love of Christ, an Independent Catholic Church, died Aug. 1, after a long struggle with AIDS.

Bishop Itkin was at the forefront of the gay liberation and religious movements. His activism and ministry covered four cities—New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

He was an advocate for many social justice causes, from the black civil rights movement to peace rallies.

He helped initiate the earliest "homophile" organization, One Inc., fought the homophobic witch hunts of the McCarthy Era, and confronted mainline church leaders. Committed to the importance of women's rights, he began ordaining women to the priesthood in the early 1960s.



Sen. Edward Kennedy's bill has the support of the White House. (Photo: Rink)

tomatic infection through AIDS.

After several meetings between Kennedy, committee minority leader Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in previous weeks, several provisions of the bill which had been sticking points for the White House and Senate conservatives were ironed out. The meetings, which delayed the bill's committee approval by several weeks, resulted in a number of carefully crafted changes to a number of the bill's measures.

Among those were provisions relating to the employment discrimination areas of the bill. While the White House had requested that the bill's anti-discrimination portions apply only to employers with over 25 employees, liberals had stuck to their stance that the bill should include all employers with over 15 employees.

The compromise finally struck allows for a two-year transition period where the 25-employee cut-off point will eventually be phased down to the 15-employee cut-off.

Other details dealing with loosening restrictions for businesses in regards to braille elevator keys, wheelchair ramps and public transit wheelchair lifts which grant wider berth for transitions and small businesses were also included in the bill.

After the compromises were made final, the White House Press Office released a statement praising the bill, pledging Bush's support to signing it once it passes Congress. Sen. Hatch, however, continued to express

concerns with some of the stronger provisions of the bill.

"The president endorses this legislation as the vehicle to fulfill the challenge he offered in his Feb. 9 address to the nation: 'Disabled Americans must become full partners in America's opportunity society,'" read a statement from the White House Press Secretary released that day.

"The president has pursued a common sense approach, seeking a practical bill that will help the disabled reach their full potential. He is committed to producing a bill that can be signed this year," said the White House.

AIDS activists lauded the bill's approval, especially praising the administration's support of the legislation.

"It's excellent that this bill has come out of committee with this strong a vote," stated American Civil Liberties Union AIDS lobbyist Chai Feldblum. "I think it shows that we're going to see this bill pass this year."

"We are particularly pleased with President Bush's endorsement of the bill," added Human Rights Campaign Fund Executive Director Tim McFeeley. "The president, since before the election, has called for anti-discrimination protections for people with AIDS. Pres. Bush appears to be making good on his commitment to ending discrimination against those in our society who deserve respect, dignity and compassion."

The House of Representatives has begun considering its own version of the bill.

Born Michael Lewis Itkin, he always valued his Jewish heritage and fought against anti-Semitic organizations. Bishop Itkin also worked for the recognition of gay men who were Holocaust victims.

Itkin edited a gay freedom forum, *Maverick*, worked on early gay liberation newspapers, and published articles which were formative for gay spirituality and theology.

Before his health prevented it, Bishop Itkin often celebrated Mass for the AIDS Vigil at City

Hall. He held memberships in Integrity, the Metropolitan Community Church and the Council on Religion and the Homosexual.

A Requiem Mass will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, at 2 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 15th and Mission streets, followed by a simple supper.

Those attending are asked to bring a Food Bank donation.

An open house healing circle will be held Saturday, Aug. 19, from 6 p.m. to midnight, at 716 Valencia St., #5.

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Photo: Kingmond Young

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1. Learn about recently published scientific theory & research on how the mind influences the body, including the immune system. This health science specialty is called Psycho-Neuro-Immunology (PNI).
2. Learn about pre-illness personality patterns common in men with an AIDS diagnosis.
3. Learn how a certain form of chronic emotional stress may be necessary for development of HIV-related illnesses.
4. Participate in self-assessment exercises to pinpoint your immune-suppressing stress.
5. Participate in self-treatment exercises proven capable of enhancing immune system functioning, and slowing or halting the progression of HIV-related illnesses.
6. Learn self-massage techniques for stress reduction and deep relaxation.
7. Learn about the scientific literature on the connections between nutrition & immunity.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Jeffrey Leiphart, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in the psychology of health & disease. Since 1982 Dr. Leiphart has seen over 150 men with AIDS, ARC, or HIV (+) status, using the principles of PNI to assist clients in slowing or halting the progression of HIV-related illness.

Glenn R. Williston, Ph.D., M.F.C.C., is a counseling therapist & certified hypnotherapist, specializing in stress-reduction therapy, nutrition, and meditative/hypnotic states. Dr. Williston has been conducting classes, seminars, & workshops for the public since 1976.

Rosemary B. Manning, M.A., C.M.T., is a certified massage therapist with extensive training in Swedish, acupressure, reflexology, & energy based massage. She has conducted Wellness Retreats focused on massage as an avenue for stress-reduction.

DETAILS

Who: The workshop is designed for those who are HIV(+) and symptom-free; or diagnosed with HIV-related symptoms or illnesses, including ARC. Interested health and mental health professionals are encouraged to attend. Enrollment limited to 35 people.

Location: Exclusive use of Wildwood Retreat in the hills north of the Russian River & Guerneville. Retreat facilities include beautiful grounds, hot tub, dining lodge, swimming pool, & acres of woods & trails.

Dates: Sunday afternoon, August 20th, until Tuesday afternoon, August 22nd.

Cost: \$300 total includes all workshop sessions & materials, 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, & use of resort facilities.

Registration: For workshop info & registration packet, call Dr. Leiphart at 921-5282 & leave a message with your name & mailing address.

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Boatwright to Governor: Ignore AIDS Suggestions

by Dennis McMillan

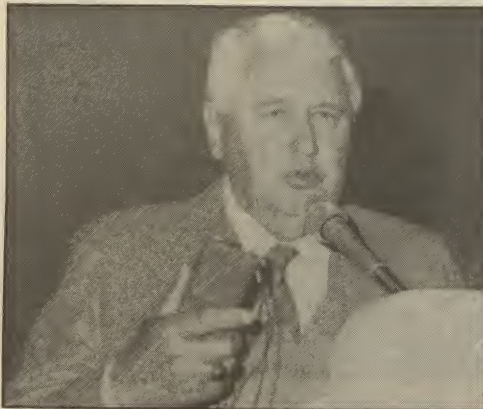
East Bay state Sen. Dan Boatwright has signed a Senate resolution, SCR 65, asking Gov. George Deukmejian to ignore the 114 recommendations by his own commission on AIDS.

According to the legislative council's digest, the resolution states: "The California AIDS Leadership Committee's plan to combat the AIDS virus entitled 'California's Continuing Response to HIV Disease and Strategic Plans' does not answer the cries of the constituents of the legislature to responsibly deal with the AIDS crisis, protect them from infection, or control the spread of AIDS." The digest concludes that the resolution "declares that legislature and the governor should reject the plan."

Co-sponsor of SCR 65 and Republican caucus Chair John Doolittle has stated that he finds several of the governor's AIDS task force recommendations particularly unpalatable, including the trial study of distribution of condoms in jail, needle exchange programs in the IV communities, teaching fourth to 12th grade schoolchildren AIDS education, and adopting AIDS non-discrimination ordinances similar to those being hotly debated over in Contra Costa County.

SCR 65 clearly objects to the plan as being "biased in its approach toward the rights of the infected versus the rights of society."

Ken Stanley, spokesperson for GALPAC, the Gay and Lesbian



State Sen. Ed Davis voted with the homophobes.

(Photo: Rink)

Public Awareness Committee for Central Contra Costa County (under Boatwright's jurisdiction), said, "To give you an idea of this man's character, it should be pointed out that during the march on Sacramento last year when a gay constituency attempted to meet with Boatwright, he threw a temper tantrum and pointed to a group of Boy Scouts saying, 'those are my constituents, not you faggots!'"

Evidently the only gay person in the community Boatwright will meet with is Stanley, and only because he is a member of the

Human Rights Commission in the county.

Boatwright refused to return the *Bay Area Reporter's* calls, a policy that apparently the senator from Concord has consistently held with the media, both gay and straight.

Stanley accused him of aligning himself with Republican Christian fundamentalists such as the Traditional Values Coalition and anti-abortionists. He is co-authoring the resolution with Doolittle, minority floor leader Ken Maddy and former minority floor leader William Campbell.

Boatwright is joining forces with 11 Senate Republicans, three assembly Republicans, and four other Democratic senators. Republican Senator Ed Davis of Northridge, ironically attacked for his pro-gay platform in the Senate primary race, is also among the supporters of the resolution.

Stanley and others feel the only reason Boatwright signed onto the resolution is that he equates AIDS with the gay community.

Woody White, executive coordinator of Diablo Valley AIDS Center, said this was not the first time Boatwright had denied gay people. He said that during the Prop. 102 battle, the senator stated vehemently that he had no need of the gay vote.

"Being a Democrat, I am very disappointed," White said. "I think he should run on a Republican ticket. He's going after the right-wing vote. He is obviously AIDSphobic, and I think it's pathetic."

White said that should SCR 65 pass, it would be utterly devastating to the California AIDS community and public health at large.

"I don't really think the resolution will pass, but if it does, I will be the first one to lay down in the street in front of the governor's house in protest," White said. ▼

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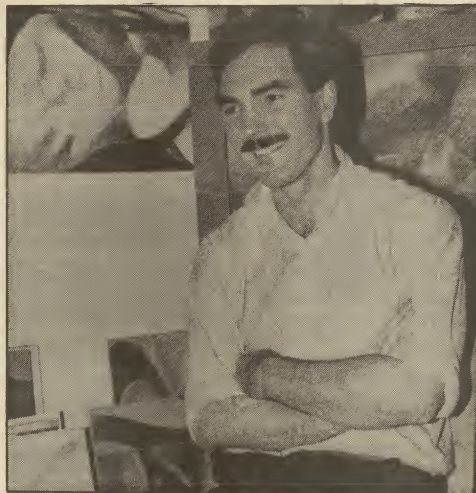
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First Scholarship in U.S. For Gays, Lesbians Set Up



Rob Birlle.

(Photo: S. Martin)

by Dennis McMillan

The nation's first scholarship offered to a gay or lesbian senior high school student has been created as a joint venture of the Diablo Valley chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the Contra Costa County chapter of the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators.

Called the Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship, \$500 will be awarded in spring 1990 to a college-bound self-identified gay or lesbian senior with a 3.0 or higher grade point average, or a non-gay student demonstrating a commitment to equality for gay

men and lesbians.

The scholarship is in remembrance of Robert W. Griffith, a gay high school student who dropped out two months prior to graduating, struggling with his sexual identity and two years later ended his life jumping from a freeway overpass.

"Surrounded by bigotry and lack of support from family, friends, or the church, he was never able to find the non-judgmental compassion for which he was desperately looking," said BANGLE Chairperson Robert Birlle.

Griffith was apparently extremely altruistic, working with the disabled, the aged in nursing homes, and animals at the Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek.

He had written in his journal: "Lord, I want to amount to something. I need your approval. If I had that, I would be happy. Life is so cruel and unfair."

Griffith's mother, Mary, president of Diablo Valley PFLAG and co-initiator of this historic scholarship, said, "Maybe I can help one kid out and tell him or her, 'You're all right, you're equal, you're lovable and you're a valuable part of God's creation.'"

Commenting on gay teens taking their lives, Birlle said, "A staggering number of gay and lesbian youth will attempt suicide and some, like Bobby, will succeed." He said the scholarship could mean "the difference between despair and hope for gay and lesbian youth who desperately need a word of encouragement."

Birlle added, "It is our hope by offering this scholarship we will provide a catalyst for improvement in the awareness of educators regarding the tremendous need in this area for positive change." He called gay and lesbian youth an invisible minority whose needs are often ignored.

BANGLE and PFLAG hope to make similar scholarships available to other counties as soon as it is economically feasible.

Those wishing to contribute to the scholarship program can send donations to the Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Wells Fargo Bank, Clayton Valley Office, 4599 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521, account number 6173-256074. ▼

Fostering Farce for Fitting Fans

MATCHLESS MIMICRY

(A "I Thought They Were Dead" Nose)

"How'd you like to meet us for Sunday brunch and then go see Daryl Wagner at the Circle Star Center?" That's how the phone conversation started. I remembered Daryl from the Town and Country when he did his "piano bar" stint there a few years ago. He was good, talented and extremely personable, but what could he possibly have done to deserve this unique billing at one of the area's better known entertainment complexes?

My query was answered when I was told that Daryl was part of a troupe—Legends in Concert—that is based in Vegas, and has two or three traveling shows as well. Daryl has been on tour in New York (Broadway!), San Carlos, and is now back in Vegas with the core group. His particular part in the show is portraying a very presentable Liberace—so realistic that the lol's were oohing and aaahing and gushing just as they did when the actual flamboyant entertainer was alive.

Legends in Concert is totally live, with all the performers imitating the sounds and gestures of the actual stars. The version we were lucky enough to see included Buddy Holly, Nat King Cole, Liberace, Marilyn Monroe, Blues Brothers, Bobby Darrin, Judy Garland, John Lennon and, of course, Elvis. All the participants were exceptionally good, but Nat King Cole was soooo authentic it bordered on the spooky, and Elvis managed to tickle the fancies of most of the "matron-boppers" who were creaming in their jeans to get one of his sweat-soaked scarves!

One woman was so enthralled that she actually offered yours truly five bucks just to take a picture of her with the still-perspiring impostor! Hmmm? Of course I took the picture... and the five bucks!

It was a fun concert, and in true show business tradition, Daryl didn't get out of character once while we enjoyed libations and gossip with him after the show. In true Liberace tradition, he informed us just who in the show and the band were, ah, er, "friendly," as it were!

Daryl talked about many, but was especially interested in Jimmy Dees and whether he had pursued his singing career.

AESTIVAL NOEL

(A "I Missed It" Nose)

While four of us were in the West Bay enjoying theatre of the parabolic, many more were in the East Bay enjoying theatre of the auction block at Ed Paulson's third annual Christmas in July held at the Spoiled Brat, Sunday, July 30.

It was an auction and food drive for the AIDS Food Bank at the Center in Oakland. Hell, it wasn't just an auction and food drive, it was a very successful auction and food drive. An astonishing \$11,000 was raised that afternoon/evening!

Ed called and wanted me to express his personal thanks to the Brat, Big Mama's, Turf Club, and Circus, for their generosity. Additional kudos and plaudits must go to Little Mother and members

of ISE for all their help and assistance.

Also, a big hug and squeeze from Ed to all those who participated in raising that huge, wonderful amount of cash.

GENETHLIACA GATHERING

(A "Where's the Cake" Nose)

I don't know where you'll be on Sunday, Aug. 20, starting at 4 p.m., but I certainly know where I'll be that day and time. I'll be among the teeming throng attending the birthday celebration for Marv's 60th, at Town and Country.

The featured entertainment (aside from Marv and guests) will be Rose Bud Band from 4 to 8 p.m., hosted by John Hauser (Hagatha!). The featured buffet will be through the courtesy of Gaylord and Daddy David.

As extra special birthday presents to all the customers, the Town and Country will set prices for beers, wines, wells, calls and liqueurs to be rolled back to approximately those of 1960 vintage. Let's see. If my memory serves me correctly—Hell! It has never served me at all, much less correctly!—19 years ago I was paying about 65 cents for a scotch and water. That is, when I could sneak into the bars, being under age and all!

Sam, Steve, Jeff, Stevie, and, oh yes, Mavis (!), promise a most unforgettable celebration; one that you won't want to miss, I'm sure!

FRENETIC VIRTUALS

(A "Don't Call It Crocodile" Nose)

The Spoiled Brat (in conjunction with Marlin Perkins and Clyde Beaty I suppose!) presents Wild Night at the Brat on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 7:30 p.m. What makes this particular night wilder than any other at the Brat is that there will be an alligator feed!

Yep! Rob and Lew have gone to great lengths to expose (?) the public to the finer side of lagarto dining. Along with the traditional barbecued alligator steak (does one order that rare or medium-well?) you may enjoy mashed potatoes and gravy, greens and corn bread.

Tickets are \$15 per, and must be purchased in advance from any of the Brat's bartenders. Proceeds from the "feast" will go to the AIDS Food Bank at the Center.

EXCELLENT EXTEMPORIZATION

(A "Who's Got the Script?" Nose)

Tsk, tsk and shame, shame if you were one of the poor unfortunate to miss seeing that fabulous group Over Our Heads last Sunday at the Driftwood in Hayward. It was by far one of the finest presentations to be seen in the Bay Area in many a moon!

The fun festivities were fulfilled by four fabulous females fostering farce for fitting fans. Over Our Heads just has to be about the best entertainment presented "in the cabaret" circuit. For over three hours the audience was not only asked to participate, but also gave willingly of standing ovations after each presentation.



Empress X out of drag and our intrepid reporter Watta Drag.

Manuel really struck gold in this group, and hugs to Hank and him for making it all possible. Those who weren't there, really missed something good—honest live entertainment!

The event was to assist ISE General and Charity Fund Accounts 50/50. The door gleaned \$136; the raffle (gals from the Driftwood donated the prizes) added an additional \$79; the Polish auction proffered \$53 more. Each of the fund accounts was enhanced by \$134.

(At the top of the show, the gals announced that it was their very first performance in pajamas. I just had to inform them that it was my very first attendance in those very same garments!)

PISTACHE

(A "Bits and Pieces" Nose)

On Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Driftwood, Bessie presents her

second annual Old Timers Reunion from 2 to 6 p.m. She remembers Mona's, Jubilee, Pearl's, 440, Mary's, Lancers and Gordon's (of course three were in San Francisco).

A few of us were able to come up with just a tad more from the East Bay. How many do you remember? Tiny's Penthouse, Club 7, Palm Gardens, Music Box, Berry's, Chalet, Shady Lady, Lou and Rae's, Aloha Club, Chances R, Manhole, Han's, Bank Club, Sutter Club, Baccanal, Occidental, Retreat, Queen's Palace, Exit, Fox Chandelier, Backyard, Waikiki, Clipper Club, and Carnation.

Regardless, it promises to be a fun afternoon, especially with the addition of food and entertainment.

On Thursdays from 6 to 10 p.m., the Bench and Bar presents Italian Night Out. For only \$2.50

per person, you can get garlic bread, salad, and scrumptious lasagna. Why not get a group together and make a party of it?

On Saturday, Aug. 12, Cathy Heart presents Steppin' Out, starting at 9 p.m. It is a benefit for Inga's defense fund. Seems that the INS, all of the sudden, wants to send her packing back to England—after six years here! Mama Chuckles will be pouring the libations.

Don't forget the Casino Night at Big Mama's, 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20. It is a joint fundraiser for In-Memory Foundation and ISE.

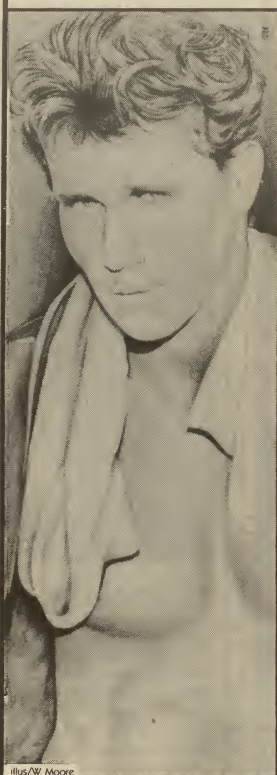
Next Monday, Spoiled Brat continues its fabulous bingo nights, starting promptly at 7 p.m. I "called" last Monday, and only made five mistakes. Hell! B-17 looks a lot like G-45—with-out my glasses!

The "scelerat" had better be on his guard. Bertha Jean doesn't appreciate his blabbing falsehoods about her lover and some ribald indemnity pab. Bertha Jean says, "Them's fighting words, and if it takes getting 86'd from all Hayward bars, I'm ready to fight tooth and nail!"

Why is it that people who work sitting down get paid more than people who work standing up? You smile on that one. I don't even want to think about it! Love, Nez.

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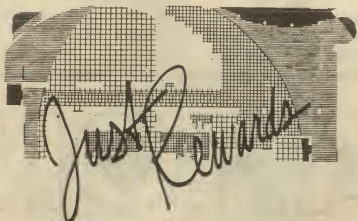
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Queen of the Queens

Karina of L.A. Is Miss California Continental

by Allen White

It was quite a Saturday night at the Holiday Inn as Karina from Los Angeles became Miss California Continental 1989-90. Tourists moving through the hotel got quite an eyeful as the dozens of elegant drag queens grandly moved through the hotel lobby.

In the world of drag there are very few events that can measure up to the Miss Continental Beauty Pageant. They are franchised across the country and Chicago's Jim Flint heads up the operation.

Flint who is to drag what Colonel Sanders is to fried chicken, said, "We just sold three more franchises for next year. We're picking up New Hampshire, Missouri and Seattle. It is encouraging. When it started 10 years ago I never thought it would get this big. It's getting bigger and bigger."

Just like Miss America, these contestants gather for their local competition. There is a talent competition. Then there is the evening gown competition and, of course, what would a beauty pageant be without a swimsuit competition.

This is one contest where the phrase "everyone is a winner" certainly applies. The contestants are not simply "drag queens." They are serious female impersonators.

Lola Lust, a former Grand Duchess, rates the contestants as sort of the top of the line drag queens. "These are the showcases," Miss Lust noted that people worked hard to compete in the competitions. Many of the contestants have entered the contest for several years running.

"This is what they prepare for," she said. "These are not the entertainers or the community workers of our society who raise

money. They still do this but they dedicate their lives to competition."

Their presentations are fabulous. Jim Flint accurately observed, "This is like the Miss America of drag although the gowns are much more beautiful than anything you will see there."

Looking back over the last few years, Flint said, "I think San Francisco has grown up. There are so many contestants here to compete on a national level that I think they are going to break through."

Flint said the best female impersonators in past years have come from the South. "I think California is starting to move in the same direction. Unfortunately for California, there's not that many bars that have female impersonation five nights a week that cater to our community."

The winner gets \$500 and goes to Chicago for the Labor Day competition to become Miss Continental USA.

Knowing a good thing when he sees it, Flint said he is working on creating a Mr. Continental USA contest. He said, "We're looking for a city to host. I haven't decided whether it will be San Francisco, Miami or Los Angeles."

Flint rated San Francisco as "one of the better preliminaries."

The Miss California Continental Beauty Pageant is the work of Janet Cory. Cory seems to know every nook and cranny in the state where a competitor can be found. "There was such a high level of contestants and it was such a joy to see Miss Continental California escalate to such a high level of entries. They say the third is a charm and this was the third year."

One of those places was the Paradise Bar and Grill in Oakland. "Janet Cory called over and asked if we had any contestants and we all said 'Timmy,'" said George Hoffman. Hoffman is a waiter at the Paradise and he worked backstage to help his contestant compete. Timmy Ryan didn't win but he was one of the several contestants who gave it everything and possibly is looking forward to next year.

As the evening moved to the semi-finalists, it looked like a dramatic looking Tatum would be the winner. She won for best swim suit, best talent and, just like the Miss America event, managed to snare the Miss Congeniality prize.

Tatum is from Cuba and has been in the United States for 10 years. Tatum has appeared twice as a contestant in this event and also competed in the Miss Gay West Coast contest.

The winner for the night was Karina from Los Angeles. Lisa, a non-competing female impersonator, was Karina's sponsor. "We decided to give her all the support we could and she won," Lisa exclaimed as a table of Southern California people went hysterical when the winner was announced. Following the announcement, the reigning queen, as it were, placed the crown on the head of the new winner for her first walk.

As Holiday Inn bartenders looked on in stunned amazement, the new Miss California Continental made her walk down the ramp. Lola Lust casually watched the winner and observed, "They are just the everyday Joe, looking for the same thing we all are—companionship and safe sex. I wish there was more like them."



Honoring Human Rights

The July 27 reception in the City Hall Rotunda celebrating the 25th anniversary of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission drew 600 people. Sponsored by the Friends of the HRC, the event honored those who took the lead in 1964 in focusing public attention on discrimination and in establishing the Human Rights Commission. Among those honored was Del Martin, co-founder of the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955 and co-founder of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual in 1964. Attending the party were (left to right): HRC commissioners Lenore Chinn and Leonard Graff; former HRC Commission chair Phyllis Lyon; Del Martin; and Peter M. Jamero, HRC director.

Friday

(Continued from page 10)

number who could identify Gillespie, the probable GOP candidate (38 percent), but a whopping 39 percent rated Hayden unfavorably, suggesting they would not vote for him.

Gillespie will be challenged in the GOP primary by **State Sen. John Doolittle**, the anti-gay conservative from Sacramento.



Sen. Pete Wilson. (Photo: Rink)

Sen. Pete Wilson, meanwhile, continues to lead everybody in everything. Wilson has raised \$5 million in his campaign to succeed **George Deukmejian** in the governor's office. In voter preference polls he leads Van de Kamp by a 47-39 margin, and leads Feinstein by a comfortable 53-38 margin.

Representatives from the camps of Van de Kamp, Feinstein, Arlo Smith, and even Pete Wilson, pointed out this week that this latest California Poll is still an early one and all agreed that while it points out current voter preferences, the poll could be obsolete within weeks and the candidate leading now could very well be trailing when the next poll is announced.

The primary races, particularly the Feinstein-Van de Kamp and the Smith-Reiner contests, should prove very interesting in the coming months. Stay tuned.

The Board of Supervisors have put a pay raise for themselves on the November ballot that amounts to a 70 percent increase in salary (from \$23,924 annually to \$41,122). The four supes who voted against the idea were **Harry Britt**, **Richard Hongisto**, **Wendy Nelder** and **Tom Hsieh**.

And **Wendy Nelder**, incidentally, is being credited with the "Supervisory Temper-Tantrum of the Week," allegedly purposely missing an important meeting of the board's Land

Use Committee, resulting in the lack of a quorum, meaning no meeting was held.

As rumor has it, **Nelder** was miffed at fellow **Sup. Harry Britt**. Of course, Ms. Nelder's aide quickly took the blame, claiming a "scheduling error." Nelder, who changes City Hall aides more often than some people change their underwear, apparently has staffers for just these occasions.

And who can forget another distinguished city "leader" (the undisputed winner of last month's "Supervisory Temper-Tantrum") who, after being outmaneuvered by a fellow supe, angrily tore up some Certificates of Honor and threw them at his aide?

Damn, give these people that raise they want, and then maybe they will take their jobs as seriously as they do themselves!

Gay and lesbian leaders in Oakland are reportedly jumping on the **Elihu Harris** for mayor bandwagon in droves. Harris is opposing incumbent Mayor **Lionel Wilson**, who some gay activists tell me pretty much ignores the fact that there are gays in Oakland.

Sex in Washington? The House Ethics Committee announced an investigation this week into the sexual activities of no less than three members: **Reps. Bates (D-CA)**, **Savage (D-IL)**, and **Lukens (R-OH)**.

In Chicago this week, Cook County Circuit Judge **Patrick Morse** struck down a state law requiring those convicted of sex-related crimes to be tested for AIDS, saying that the law violates constitutional bans on unwarranted search and seizure.

In a contest that only weeks ago rated a toss-up between the GOP and the Democrats, Assemblyman **Gary Condit** is now said to be leading comfortably in the race to win the special congressional election Sept. 12 in California's 15th District to replace Democrat **Tony Coelho**, who resigned to avoid an ethics investigation.

Olympic swimming star **Greg Louganis**, who has many friends in San Francisco, and is now an actor (currently appearing in the Long Beach Civic Light Opera's production of *Cinderella*) has reached an out-of-court settlement with his former friend and long-time manager **James Babbitt**.

According to my sources, Louganis reached a settlement of a lawsuit he filed last March charging that Babbitt had misappropriated funds and threatened physical harm and the revelation of "confidential and private facts." What facts? Louganis will only say, "No comment."

President George Bush's popularity is, according to a *New York Times-CBS News* poll, the highest since he took office: 67 percent of the American people

approve of his job performance. Now, if we could just get this administration to give a little more priority to the AIDS epidemic and a little less to building bombers.

Gubernatorial candidate **John Van de Kamp** still taking heat from fellow Democrats over his plan to limit state officeholders to 12 years in office. Powerful San Jose Assemblyman **John Vasconcellos** the latest to attack the Van de Kamp scheme, saying, "I can't support him [for governor] with capers like this. The 12 year limit is stupid." Vasconcellos has been in the legislature for 23 years.

So, Rev. Jesse Jackson has finally moved to Washington and will run for mayor though he still plays the silly guessing game (it keeps him in the news that way). But does anyone really care?

Jesse, who crisscrosses the country, running from headline to headline should feel right at home in the nation's capital with all that media based there. Jesse as mayor? Probably. Jackson as president? Probably never.

Meanwhile, another would-be president, **Michael Dukakis** attended the national governor's conference in Chicago last week and had to sit in the audience

listening to George Bush. As Bush spoke, two Democratic governors mentioned as possible 1992 presidential candidates were on hand—**Mario Cuomo** of New York and **Bill Clinton** of Arkansas. When the meeting broke up and the President had left, reporters swarmed around Cuomo and Clinton. Dukakis quietly left the room alone.

A lot of gay and lesbian activists I know in this town feeling more than a little betrayed by the **Lynn Griffiths** fiasco, with one well-known lesbian telling me, "The smartest thing she did was leave town."



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Discharge

(Continued from page 15)

"It's not really a question of grounds but of likelihood of success. You can claim that the Coast Guard requirements are unconstitutional, but your chances of winning are very slim, especially with a conservative court."

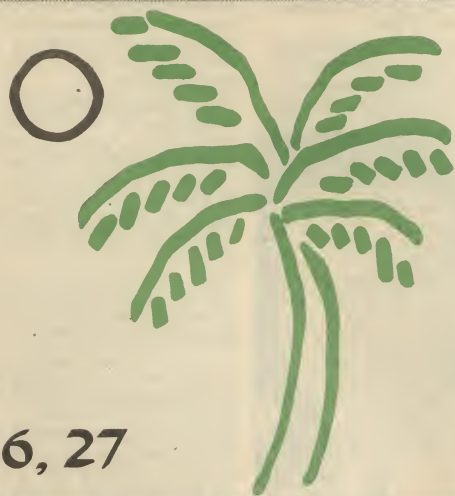
In the meantime, he remains on active duty in Alameda awaiting a final decision from Washington. The local command has until Aug. 6 to send the case to the commandant, which will then have 60 days in which to act.

Although the hearing did not go in his favor, Huertas believes he won a victory of sorts nevertheless for the board did recommend that the Coast Guard re-examine its policy relating to homosexuality.

"In all my research, and I did a lot of research before I started this," said Huertas, "I never found a case in the Coast Guard where the board recommended a policy change. As far as I can tell, this is a first. So even though it looks like I may have lost, I also won. It's not right, what they're doing, and maybe this will make them change the way they treat homosexuals."

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dragged Out Odd Couple Breaks a Heel

by David Perry

Drag can be its own unique theatrical experience. It also can be a political or societal statement. Neil Simon's revised female version of *The Odd Couple* as produced by Andrew Black and John David Wilson with an all-male cast at the Theatre Rhinoceros Studio is neither. It's just bad.

There may be worse ideas than doing a drag version of this play, but I sure hope they never occur to anybody.

Theatre Rhinoceros has been distancing itself from this production for some time, making sure that all involved parties are aware that this is *not* a Theatre Rhinoceros presentation. Their instincts were right. Two days before the opening, Samuel French Inc., the licensor of the play, called to cancel the group's production contract. To quote a program note: "[Samuel French] felt that staging the play with an all-male cast was in direct contradiction to the playwright's intent."

Producers Andrew L. Black and John David Wilson managed to contact Neil Simon directly, who acquiesced with a "why not" sort of attitude. Lucky him, he didn't have to see it. For the audience, the question to be asked is "why?"

Non-traditional casting has been a source of backstage angst

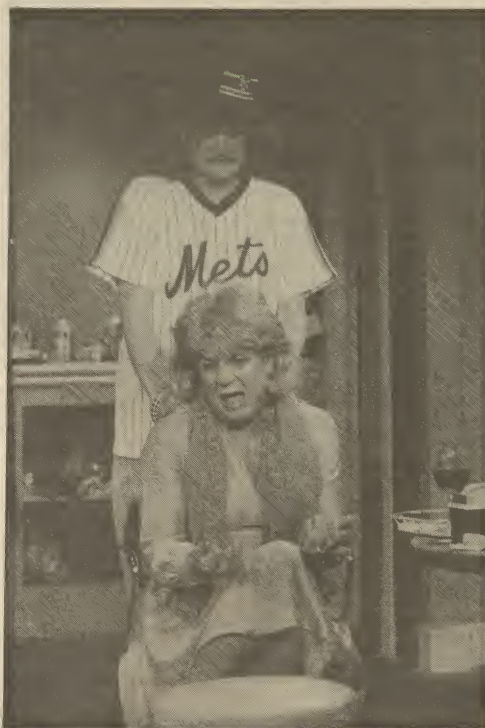
since some radical post-Elizabethan suggested using women to play the part of Shakespeare's heroines, instead of young boys. Now of course, the non-traditionally cast Bard is all we get.

However, it can be argued that women playing women's characters do not divert attention away from the meaning of the text; that in fact, such casting serves to further illuminate the script and involve the audience more deeply in the inherent and newly revealed truths of the playwright's art.

Drag queens portraying women in a mediocre rewrite by Neil Simon illuminate nothing. All that is revealed is the inherent weakness of Simon's script and the lack of stagecraft on the part of these actors and director.

The original *Odd Couple* was one of Neil Simon's biggest hits. The idea of two divorced heterosexual men, one compulsively neat, the other a slob, trying to live together, is ripe with comic situations. After a boffo Broadway run in 1966 came the boffo movie with Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon. And then, the still popular television series with Jack Klugman and Tony Randall.

When Simon rewrote the play for women in 1985, Rita Moreno and Sally Struthers took it to Broadway in a tepidly received mounting. What was once funny was now just dated. To audiences



Lily Street, top, and Stephanie Miller in the revised female version of *The Odd Couple*. (Photo: Steve Sutton)

of 20 years ago, and surely some still today, two men assuming classically male and female stereotypes while still being heterosexual men is pretty hysterical fare. This has always been such stuff as farce is made of.

If, as producers Black and Wilson contend in their notes, there were any "homoeoteric ideas" lurking between the lines of Simon's original premise, they

were effectively washed out, along with much of the humor, by the 1985 version. Let's face it, homo or het, two women living together has never raised to the heterosexual mainstream the bonding issues of two males living together. Having male actors assume the female roles doesn't add to the spice—it dilutes it. This well was dry when Simon

(Continued on page 40)

The Play That Almost Didn't

by Noreen C. Barnes

How much control should a playwright have over the production of his/her work, particularly when the play is established, has had numerous productions, and producers have an interpretation of the script that may be very different from the writer's original conception?

That is a crucial question in regard to Andrew Black and John David Wilson's current production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* at Theatre Rhinoceros.

Black said that when the idea initially arose to do the female version of the play with a male cast, it was thought there would be no problem in securing rights for the production.

Even the staging of the female version—with women—at the Mason Street Theatre earlier this year posed no threat, particularly because it was a failure.

The only stipulation in regard to production that Black recalled from Samuel French's, the publisher and licensing agent for the play, contract was that the playwright's "intent" be respected.

Black noted that the *real* intent of *The Odd Couple* was fulfilled by the "male energy behind the female roles" and that his and Wilson's production was actually truer to the original version of the play.

When they requested permission from Samuel French to do

(Continued on page 26)

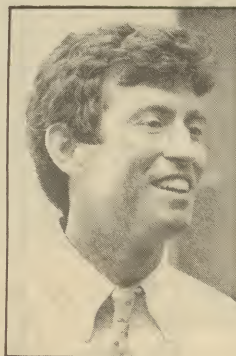
An Inspiring Memorial For 'The Good Soldier'

Matlovich: The Good Soldier
by Mike Hippler; Alyson Publications; \$8.95.

by Marv. Shaw

The absolutely right title comes along rarely, but Hippler really hit the dead center of the bullseye with this one. Soldiering is what Matlovich did best, whether it was in his varying roles in the U.S. Air Force or in the service of gay causes. Hippler carefully sticks to that characterization in this biography, using the facts of Matlovich's life, his subject's testimony, and the evidence from his associates. Altogether, the book is a solid account of a unique, dedicated man. That it doesn't explain quite enough may or may not be the biographer's fault.

It's sharply clear from the start that Matlovich came by soldiering naturally, being born into an Air Force family that was Catholic, close-knit, dedicated to national service and well disciplined. Like most service families, the Matlovichs lived in many different locales in the United States and abroad. Unlike many



Author Mike Hippler.

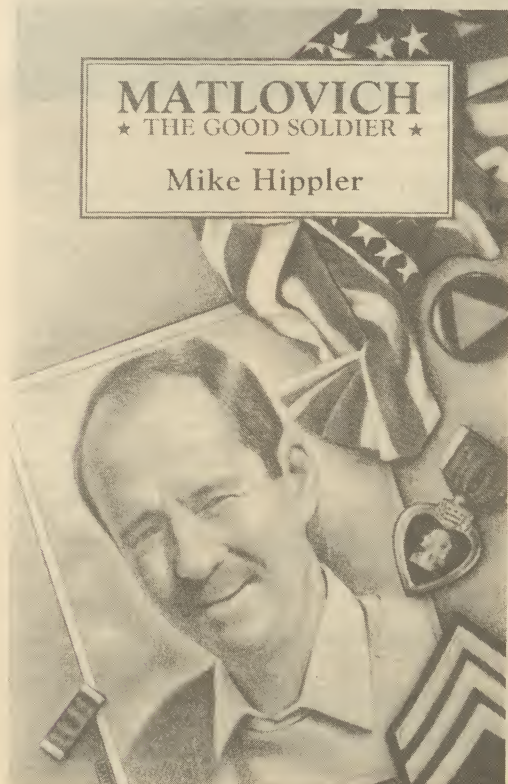
service kids, young Leonard suffered no ill effects from the bounces. So it was no surprise that he enlisted in the Air Force at 19.

He toughed out three tours of duty in Vietnam, including win-

ning a Bronze Star and being awarded a Purple Heart after a mine blew up at his feet. Returned to the states, he cast about for a new service role and found it in counseling alcohol and drug abusers. He soon added the job of facilitator of groups developing inter-racial acceptance in the integrated Air Force.

The big changes started then. Matlovich had to overcome his own racial prejudices. But ironically, at the same time, he was deeply involved with his newly adopted faith, Mormonism. Of course, his most troublesome involvement was with his own secret, repressed gayness. He had been aware of it since his early teens but now had to recognize it more as he became infatuated with one buddy after another. One such affair finally did result in two fulfilling sexual experiences, and Matlovich was on his way out of the closet.

(Continued on page 28)



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

A Variation on Pillow Talk

by John F. Karr

Variations on a Sexual Theme, which has begun an open-ended (though probably short lived) run at the Zephyr Theatre, is this year's version of that perennial breed: the hopefully perky, hopefully sophisticated and hopefully risqué musical revue in which sexual conventions of the day provide a racy, thoughtful and above all, tuneful evening. *Oh, Calcutta* was the longest-running version of this show; *Let My People*

Come the most notorious, and now, *Variations* is perhaps the most bland.

I can't see what interest a gay audience might have in this show; it is too homogenized in nearly all of its content, but specifically in its gay aspects, to make much of an impression. When my companion noted that the first presentation of a gay character was hardly positive—it's a gay man who brings home a girl to mask his mother's knowledge of

his sexuality—I noted I wouldn't have minded if the music was tuneful, the lyric fresh and the staging clever.

Not that *Variations* is without any of those qualities—particularly in the second act where several songs attain some punch. But the general tone of the evening is very *Pillow Talk*; recommended if your parents or aunts are in town and need to see a show—but I don't know what adult gay men or women can find herein to make them sit up and take note.

I was aggravated by the overly busy staging, the distraction of the constantly billowing streamers that make up the backdrop, and the rather impersonal attitudes director Bill Starr has imposed on his cast. Some of these are at least agreeable people, specifically the personally engaging Todd Menard, the distinctive Amy Dondy, and non-plussed Kate Doyle, who is forced to share a fine torch song, inexplicably, with some dancing walls. Credit also goes to the pointed accompaniment of Donald Eldon Wescoat.

The show is kind of "The



Grant Thompson, Stephen Frugoli, Todd Menard and Lorraine Dale in *Variations on a Sexual Theme*.

Young Americans Sing About Sex." And I'll tell you, when you're dealing with sex, it's not good enough to be fresh young kids. *Variations* as presented here is just not hands on and sharp enough to make me feel like a

fresh young kid myself, or a ruefully knowing adult. ▼

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Lily Street makes a mess while Stephanie Miller cleans up.

(Photo: Steve Sutton)

Barnes

(Continued from page 25)

the female version of *The Odd Couple*, they did not mention that men would be performing the roles. It wasn't until the publishing company found out about this drag interpretation of "Lily Street" and "Stephanie" Miller, from the *San Francisco Chronicle* that problems for the producers began.

French attempted to have the production aborted, and Black said he had to "play every note in my orchestra" to appeal to them to let the show go on. He asked to discuss the matter with Simon's agent, but instead received a response from the playwright's attorney.

Simon communicated his disapproval of the production, but because it was so far into production, he did not want to stand in its way. And, he warned, "just don't try it with *Broadway Bound*."

Some playwrights have restricted alternative interpretations of their work by others.

Most notably, Samuel Beckett has prohibited productions of *Waiting for Godot* with female actors in any of the roles (although they have been done without his knowledge or sanction).

Doug Holsclaw of Theatre Rhinoceros cited Edward Albee's vehement opposition to a gay male version of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Theatre Rhino's own practice of cross-gender casting has been very attractive, particularly in the last year, in productions of Genet's *The Balcony* and Mamet's *A Life in the Theatre*. (Genet, at least, probably would have approved.)

Black also noted that Clare Booth Luce would not permit a male cast in *The Women*.

Cross-gender performance, however, has been a longstanding tradition—one employed frequently out of necessity, as women were not allowed on the stage during much of the history of the theatre. Thus, the original *Medea* was played by a man, and young boys

were the first to perform in roles such as Juliet and Ophelia during Shakespeare's time.

When women were finally accepted as theatrical performers, they too attempted roles of the opposite gender—quite a legitimate response to hundreds of years of male dominance of the stage. A vogue developed for women in leading male classical roles, and actresses such as Charlotte Cushman and Sarah Bernhardt played Hamlet. These portrayals were often critical and popular successes, rather than mere novelties. Some male actors complained that such undertakings were perversions in which women "unsexed" themselves.

In contemporary theatre, women have used this device of non-traditional casting as feminist commentary, while that of men in female roles is a convention employed primarily for camp effect, although there have been examples of it being used as social critique, such as the late Charles Ludlam's performance as Hedda Gabler, and the gender-bending in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*. ▼

Torturous Seduction

Sado-masochism, machismo, and torture—what more alluring promises for an entertaining evening could you dangle before a gay man? Whether it be your everyday queer with a preoccupation with what is manly, or your South of Market type who ritualizes and stages his fantasies in quest of manly titles, these are subjects and images that captivate and snare the gay imagination. And these are the images of *Dangerous Games*, a new show playing at the Curran Theatre through Sept. 3, in which director/choreographer Graciela Daniele has used the hypnotic music and bewitching sensuality of the tango to seduce audiences into a confrontation with the dark side of their sexuality.

"The tango is the sexiest dance ever invented," Daniele told me in a recent telephone conversation. "It is a whole language of dance based on the embrace. But it is scary," Daniele said—scary because in our bewitched and passive acceptance of tango's power to seduce, Daniele sees a tolerance for evil and the onset of fascism.

Dangerous Games is subtitled "Two Tango Pieces," and is comprised of two loosely related one-act dance shows. The first piece, *Tango*, is a wordless series of set pieces that explore tango as a dance. Set in a bordello during the 1930s heyday of the tango, it offers a smoking set of encounters between the girls and their clientele, which illustrates every permutation of female submission and preening male dominance. It culminates in an intense dance in which two brothers compete nearly unto their death over a woman—yet it is more an expression of their close relationship, expressed in the only way "real" men can love: a fight.

The second half of the evening, *Orfeo*, brings contemporary allusions, examining the suffering we endure after being snared by sexual fantasy. In a retelling of the Orfeo myth, Daniele pays homage to *The Disappeared Ones* of her native land, Argentina, by exploring the empowerment of fascism. The connection between the two acts, Sylvie Drake of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote, is that both the customers of the brothel and the inhabitants of the country, "are irresistibly and dangerously attracted to the beautiful but deadly footwork of ruthless conquerors." We are wooed and violated by men and their power.

Dangerous Games has aroused controversy at previous performances at the Spoleto Festival and at the La Jolla Playhouse. People have been fascinated and aroused by the dances, yet disturbed by the content and the message—although political awareness is hardly necessary to enjoyment of the piece. All you need, Drake wrote, is "eyes, ears, and a healthy set of genes (for this) smoldering, savagely sensual dance theatre piece."

The show, just like the tango, is already highly charged with sexual politics. It is a show whose sexual iconography is as irresistible yet as potentially dangerously misleading as much of the gay iconography of uniforms and leather. Following the orgasmic excitement of the first act's sexual contests, the second act begs a re-examination of values. In doing, it has made an activist of

Daniele, although that's a role she firmly resists.

"There is violence in the sexual connotation of *Tango* and the fascist connotation of *Orfeo*. These are strong pieces because I was painting a picture of this culture and violence is a part of that picture. I wanted to say 'Watch it.' Because it is attractive. Any culture that accepts this cold macho world could become a fascist culture. The problem is that it is seductive.

"But it sounds very funny to say that I am a political activist. I am a very un-political person. Whenever I act, it is just impulse. I was not trying to make a political or sexual statement. It was so much more innocent than that.

"I had been a choreographer of other director's Broadway shows for many years, and began to feel that something was missing—that was the chance to make a statement of my own. And then I was offered a chance to do an idea of my own. Well, it wasn't even very clear to me what I wanted to do—except that I



John Mineo and Gregory Mitchell in *Dangerous Games*.

wanted to work with Astor Piazzola. I have been a fan of his for 40 years, since I was a child. And he composes tango, of course, so that led me to doing some work about Argentina. I had gotten sick to my stomach when I read

about *The Disappeared Ones*, and I felt guilty I couldn't do anything about it except make a contribution to Amnesty International. I mean, how can you make a musical about torture? But that's when the idea developed of

doing a myth and through the myth to talk a little bit about fascism.

"So they gave me an empty canvas, with just Astor's incredible music and an idea, and all of

(Continued on page 48)

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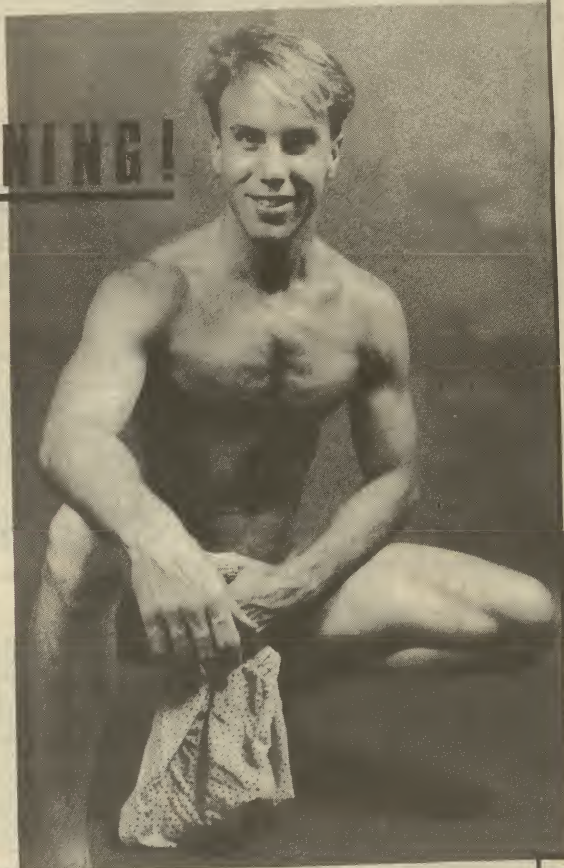
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Sophisticated Ladies

Ella and Cleo Swing the POPS

The San Francisco Symphony POPS season got a much needed shot of adrenaline with the emotional appearance of Ella Fitzgerald on closing night. Mel Torme was reported to be in fine form, and Cleo Laine was witnessed at a new and satisfying turn in an impressive career, but it was the great Ella who moved a jam-packed arena into something resembling an all-out love feast. Affection from the crowd was real enough to touch, and it helped erase any doubt about the diminished power of a beloved singer's voice—the lion in winter still gives a mighty roar.

For those of us who have spent a lifetime listening to Ella Fitzgerald, the drop-out on the legendary scat interludes, missed notes and mangled lyrics were painful at first. Her physical frailty, after many health problems, has taken its toll on what was, most certainly, the best voice in the business.

Still, when she cooks, the flaws are quickly forgotten and Ella is only competing with her former self. Most singers wouldn't dream of taking her confident liberties with the standards, and I doubt anyone, save Billie Holiday herself, could forge a better "God Bless the Child"; and that,

in spite of memory lapses!

The sound system at Civic Auditorium has been mediocre throughout the POPS series, and an overly strident microphone did nothing to gloss the raw quality of some song endings, but Ella Fitzgerald couldn't hold back if she tried, and our ears made allowances. When she launched into a rollicking "The Lady is a Tramp," the years fell away, and it wouldn't have mattered if she belted through a megaphone.

Cleo Laine has never enjoyed the sort of continued success accorded La Fitzgerald. Her checkered career has been a study in artistic development, embracing everything from the classics to low down blues, brittle cabaret ballads and critically acclaimed appearances in stage vehicles. She has excelled in all, but the public has never been able to really pin her down and so her core following has a more "cult star" label.

Laine's husband, conductor John Dankworth, has obviously influenced her big band approach to many numbers, but the wild octave leaps, death-defying trills and throaty histrionics could only come from her own soul. Calling her a song stylist is, for once, justified for she willingly submerges her own ego into the life of each selection. Old standards become contemporary art songs, each receiving meticulous care in preserving the integrity of the lyric.

Laine puts a personal stamp on every note, but never ignores the message of the composer. It is heartening, therefore, that she has decided to record a new album devoted entirely to the works of women writers. Her knock-out set included many of the soon to be released numbers and, based on the evidence, it should be a rousing hit.

Like Ella Fitzgerald (and everyone else), Cleo Laine is not getting any younger, still, she has never looked better and if her amazing instrument is



Ella Fitzgerald boosted the symphony's POPS season.

also showing certain signs of wear, she has developed a way of using it to her advantage. The trademark Sondheim tunes have acquired a wonderful patina; the bold wit of the words and haunting tunes pack an incredible punch. It is San Francisco's inestimable loss that she departed the international touring company of *Into the Woods* before it opened here.

The POPS, this year, have been marred by largely indifferent playing by orchestra members. Some onstage behavior by certain players has bordered on flippancy. Conductor Andrew Massey could not elicit the undivided attention or respect that John Williams receives in Boston with the grand daddy of the promenade orchestras. The material may be light at these concerts and the crew may be feeling a summertime frivolity, but the proper Bostonians know that only disciplined playing can fully convey the intended fun.

What happened during one

selection at the "From Russia With Love" evening would hardly be acceptable at a high school recital, let alone the stylish and elegant San Francisco series.

Whatever the shortcomings of orchestral support, the sophisticated ladies, Ella and Cleo, emerged triumphant. Though, in all fairness, it was obvious the musicians were every bit as enthused as audience members during Ella Fitzgerald's appearance. The two singers are marvelous survivors, and it gave special power to Laine's electrifying rendition of "I'm Still Here."

One woman was overheard remarking that she never wanted to see Fitzgerald onstage again—preferring to remember her the way she was. Well, excuse the grand old dame for daring to act her age! How many of us could ever swing this well in the flower of youth? As for me, I'm convinced—if the Statue of Liberty could open her mouth to sing, she would sound exactly like Ella Fitzgerald today. ▼

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Soldier

(Continued from page 25)

Not long after that, assured now that he was truly, acceptably gay, Matlovich started work with the veteran Washington, D.C., gay activist Frank Kameny and the ACLU's David Addlestone to challenge the military's bar against homosexuals. On March 6, 1975, Matlovich wrote the fateful letter to his commanding officer. In it, he made two main points: he was gay; his gayness wouldn't interfere in any way with his service in the U.S. Air Force. Of course the Air Force took the opposite view, and the struggle was on.

For Matlovich now, there was no second cool step out of the closet. It was more like being shot out of a cannon as his case quickly got national attention. The famous *Time* cover appeared, and he became a media star and gay hero.

Much of the rest of Matlovich's story is in the public record, but while Hippler deals with that in careful detail, he also involves

more of the analytical, explanatory, interpretive aspects of the subject. Matlovich himself contributed a lot, but so did Kameny, Addlestone, close friend Michael Bedwell, NGLTF President Bruce Voeller, the MCC's Troy Perry and others. There is ample endorsement of Matlovich's courage and overall resourcefulness, but there is also an unblinking recognition of his faults, one of the most persistent being his inclination to fall in love with unsuitable men.

Whether Matlovich's hard core conservatism was a flaw or not is certainly debatable. However, it does seem extraordinary that this gay man could not only become the nation's prime example of a proud homosexual but also conquer his racial prejudices and reject organized religion for its rejection of him—and still cling to right wing Republicanism. It is this apparently sociopolitical schizophrenia that is inadequately treated here. The assumption that this political loyalty was just a maintenance of a lifelong faith is simplistic and lame. In treating such an important element so superficially, Hippler limits his book.

Nevertheless, *Matlovich: The Good Soldier* will stand as a splendid and inspiring memorial to one of our own who stood with chin up, shoulders back, and chest out as one of our greatest warriors. ▼

Upcoming Events at A Different Light

The writing and the life of Geoff Mains will be honored Saturday, Aug. 12, at 3 p.m., with a memorial reading at A Different Light.

Robert Chesley, Mark Thompson and Joseph Beam will read selections from *Gentle Warriors*, a novel from Knights Press, which Mains saw in print just a week before his death.

Mains was also the author of *Urban Aborigines*, a landmark study in the field of S/M theory and practice.

For information call 431-0891. ▼

The Beat

Megatone Coming On Strong

by David Taylor-Wilson

At the height of the disco/dance craze, when you thought of San Francisco and mega-stars like Sylvester and Patrick Cowley. You also identified those stars and others with the City-based label Megatone Records.

In earlier days, Megatone Records was known as a dance music powerhouse. There isn't a nightclub DJ in the world that doesn't have something in his collection on Megatone Records.

Now, after a much too long period of near absence, The Beat is being informed that the troops at Megatone Records have regrouped and are ready to reclaim the title of dance music domination, and rightfully so.

Label owner Marty Bleiman has just appointed David Diebold as general manager. David tells me that along with the return of Megatone Records in the Hi-NRG field, the label has also created an off-shoot label known as Megatone House Records, which will deal with the other forms of contemporary dance music.

The label has also purchased the rights to the book *Tribal Rites*, which chronicles the San Francisco dance music scene. This book will be distributed nationwide via Megatone.

If you're interested in purchasing the book, you can get more information by calling Megatone Records at 621-7475 here in the City. Good luck guys, and welcome back!

The Other Coast

Hi-NRG Dance Music has always been skating around when it comes to passing out awards at the Grammys, or the American Music Awards—especially gay dance music. This past July 15, the First Annual Hi-NRG Dance Music Awards were held in New York City at The Monster nightclub. An impressive roster of attendees and nominees were represented there.

Locally, San Francisco brought home quite a few well-deserved trophies: Best Hi-NRG Album: Sylvester "12 x 12"; Best U.S. Label for Hi-NRG Product: Megatone Records; Best Hi-NRG Retail Outlet: The Record Rack; Best Hi-NRG Club: Dreamland; Best Edit of a Hi-NRG Song: Steve Bourassa of Hot Tracks for the Pet Shop Boys "Always On My Mind." Let me add that Dreamland was up against the Probe in Los Angeles, and The Bar in Lexington. This is pretty stiff competition. The Record Rack was pitted against three retail record outlets in New York City and one from Washington, D.C., again, very stiff competition. This proves that San Francisco can still hold its own, and hold it better than the rest. Congratulations to all of you.

Other winning categories included: "Always On My Mind," Pet Shop Boys for Best Hi-NRG Single, Best Hi-NRG Remake, and Best Hi-NRG Group; "Savin' Myself," Eria Fachin for Best Remix of a Hi-



Sylvester—one of Megatone's giants. Dolly Parton is back with a No. 1 Country single.

Believe It or Not

Each decade can be defined with a type of music and a handful of stand-out artists. Can you name the most successful female in the music industry for the '80s? Give up? Debbie Gibson.

Singer, songwriter, performer, director and producer, she even remixes her own music. No other female artist in the '80s has racked up more success in so many fields as Gibson. Just getting underway is her concert tour.

(Continued on next page)



NRG Song; Rick Astley for Best Hi-NRG Newcomer; Stock-Aitken-Waterman for Best Hi-NRG Songwriter Team and Best Hi-NRG Producer/Production House.

Don't Leave Home Without It

Godfather James Brown is still in prison, serving his six-year sentence for aggravated assault and failing to stop for police. As if he hadn't already racked up enough trouble for himself, he was recently moved from the minimum-security facility to a medium-security facility. Seems the Godfather broke a house rule that limits inmates to possessing no more than \$50. He was found with more than \$40,000 in cash and checks in his cell.

George Michael is back in the studio working on his forthcoming double album set, which is due in spring 1990.

Awhile back The Beat reported the controversy surrounding the Commodores intent to perform in Sun City, South Africa. The group has now announced that founding member Milan Williams has been dismissed from the group for having spoken out against the intended performance. The group claims that when Williams informed the media of the group's intent to play Sun City he was committing a "treacherous act of treason" against the group; and that the subsequent cancellation of the performance cost the group a large sum of "much needed revenue." Williams had been with the group for more than 20 years.

Paul McCartney is gearing up for a world tour, which is slated to begin in Europe next month—his first in more than 13 years. He's also just completed filming a video for "This One" from his current "Flowers In The Dirt" LP.

Cable TV giant Showtime has been doing a great job producing the *Motown On Showtime* series. So far, they've featured specials on Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, The Four Tops and Michael Jackson. Now comes a tribute to Smokey Robinson with featured guests Luther Vandross, Anita Baker and Dick Clark. Also featured is a reunion with The Miracles. Not to be missed.

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sex, lies, and videotape

Sexual Ethics: Straight & Crooked

by Henry Mach

I didn't want to like *sex, lies, and videotape*, winner of the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Aside from my mistrust of European film festivals, I am also wary of first features by 26-year-old filmmakers and movies whose titles are all lower-case.

But *sl&v* is an exception to a great many rules. A work of exceptional craftsmanship that manages to be brightly witty while illuminating truths about human foibles, this movie deserves the praise and advance hype it's received.

It tells the story of Ann (Andie McDowell), a non-orgasmic young lawyer's wife. She moans to her therapist about the world garbage crisis while at the same time her obnoxiously yuppyified husband (Peter Gallagher) is screwing her sister (Laura San Giacomo).

Into this outwardly placid setting comes the husband's old college roommate, Graham (James Spader), reappearing after nine years, a drifter with completely different values and a very different lifestyle.

Graham freely admits that he's sexually impotent—or, as he explains it, he "can't get an erection if anyone else is present."

His pleasure comes from watching his videotaped interviews with women talking about their sex lives.

While the characters and situations are decidedly heterosexual, there is a post-sexual revolution tone to the movie that will be of interest to gay people.

The filmmaker raises the subject of female masturbation more than once, not as something smarmy for the sake of a snicker, but as a fact of life. It's this attitude of frankness that saves the movie from any traces of snide sophistication. The humor comes from Ann's discomfort when her therapist asks whether she's ever masturbated.

Likewise, there is nothing condescending in the portrayal of Graham. And when was the last time you remember an American movie dealing intelligently with a man whose sex life revolves around his VCR?

The movie is very simply the interaction between four characters—Ann, John, Cynthia and Graham. That simplicity is its strength.

There's no gratuitous party scene, no scene out at a nightclub. Only about a half dozen locations are seen, with a

Andie McDowell and James Spader in *sex, lies, and videotape*.

handful of cameo roles where needed. Director Steve Soderbergh trusted his words and the skill of the four leading actors to convey his ideas.

This trust was not misplaced.

I've seen more than my share of low-budget movies in which four characters talk to each other. The plot device of a quiet stranger stirring up trouble and changing everyone's life is hardly new. It's simply that in the case of *sl&v* it's all so well-done.

After seeing the movie, as I was trying to decide whether it was about sexual needs, relationships, or values,

the woman who had attended the screening with me said: "This is a movie about sisters."

She went on to talk about the interaction between Ann and her more bohemian sister, Cynthia, how different they were from each other and how much value she had placed on the resolution of their story.

The strength of *sl&v* is that a dozen different people could each see something different in this simple tale.

I've never been a proponent of gays looking for reflections of our lives in straight stories, but I have to say that there is much here that gay people will find relevant.

This is a movie about how sisters relate to each other. It's also a movie about how we tell lies in relationships, how we lie to ourselves, how we compromise

our needs, how we try to meet our needs, and ultimately how we make choices in life.

This is a thought-provoking movie. Seeing *sl&v* prompted me to think about the fact that we each need to create a realistic and ethical code of sexual behavior. That issue is surely with all of us no matter our choice of bed partners—but is especially valid in our community today.

Director Soderbergh has succeeded where so many others have failed because he filled his script with ideas. This is a movie of ideas, none packaged with easy answers.

Add to these ideas the director's obvious skill—especially his ability to make us laugh without resorting to cheap gags—and you might well end up joining the choruses of praise for *sex, lies, and videotape*. ▼

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Music

(Continued from previous page)

Meanwhile, she will find time to write and produce three songs for *Ana*, a new CBS Records artist, and will work on *Skirts* a musical film set in New York City in 1964. She will not only star in the film, but will also write the music for it. All this from a lady only 17 years old.

Patti LaBelle is back and in fine form. Her new album "Be Yourself" is chocked full of gems. "If You Asked Me To" is featured in the James Bond 007 flick *Licence to Kill*. Prince appears on the LP as writer and player of a nice cut entitled "Love 89." If you're a LaBelle fan you won't be disappointed.

Paul Shaffer of the *Late Night with David Letterman* team has a surprisingly good debut single called "When The Radio Is On." This is from his forthcoming LP "Coast to Coast" and features Carole King, Dion, Ellie Greenwich, Ecstasy (from the group Whodini), and rapper The Fresh Prince. Now that's what I call a melting pot!

It's no big secret that my wish is to be reincarnated as a great jazz singer. Recently the Jazz-Blues-Gospel Hall of Fame announced its first group of inductees, and what a group it is. Honored were Ella Fitzgerald, Muddy Waters, Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, Thomas Dorsey, and Willie Dixon.

Loose Talk

When Boy George was asked recently what he'd like to be reincarnated as, he replied, "Matt Dillon's underwear." I guess the Boy and I have a different set of goals in life.

Meanwhile, Bette Midler made this statement about her close relationships with women and gay men: "Straight men don't have the time to spend with you, because they have to get laid, they have to work, and if they're married, they have to keep their marriages together." Are you guys taking notes?

Dolly Parton lands her first #1 Country single in three years with "Why'd You Come in Here Dressed Like That?" and when asked about her overwhelming popularity in Japan, she retorted, "I guess they like short blond women with big boobs!"

The Bee Gees have announced a series of 25 concert dates in Europe and the U.K. Each one of them is already sold out! They'll be in the Bay Area Sept. 2, appearing at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View.

10 Years Ago This Week: Donna Summer held fast to the #1 position again with "Bad Girls" ... 20 Years Ago: Zager & Evans jumped back into the #1 spot with "In The Year 2525."

Next Week Coming Attractions: The Beat looks at new releases. ▼

Midsummer Marriages

When it comes to musical theatre, it seems as if everyone wants to live happily ever after. However, in order to get certain romantic leads to the point where they're even willing to smile at each other, difficult dramatic hurdles must often be overcome. In the language of opera and operetta, this means that someone must be exonerated of a petty indiscretion, a law must be repealed, or some technical obstacle in societal rules of behavior must be changed.

My favorite example of this type of dramatic illogic comes at the end of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. Throughout this operetta, the plot has revolved around the separation of Peers and Peris according to strict fairy law. But it seems that, while the Queen of the Fairies has been licking her lips at the sight of butch old Private Willis's basket, the rest of the fairies have wasted no time in finding themselves tasty little mortals. "You have all incurred death, but I can't slaughter the whole company!" sighs the despondent Queen. "And yet the law is clear—every fairy must die who marries a mortal."

"Allow me, as an old Equity draftsman, to make a suggestion," interrupts the Lord Chancellor, in a last-minute attempt to bring down the curtain on a happy ending. "The subtleties of the legal mind are equal to the emergency. The thing is really quite simple—the insertion of a single word will do it. Let it stand that every fairy shall die who *doesn't* marry a mortal and there you are, out of your difficulty at once!"

That makes sense to everyone and so, without missing a beat, the chorus joins hands and sings:

"Soon as we may, off and away! We'll commence our journey airy! Happy are we, as you can see! Every one is now a fairy! Every, every, every! Every-one is now a fairy!"

Drag Delicacies

The strength and bite of Sir William Gilbert's wit was in full evidence during the San Francisco Lamplighters' recent production of *Princess Ida*. This rarely performed operetta (which proves that the war between the sexes never really lets up) is quite an endearing little jewel. At curtain's rise, the Princess Ida has holed herself up in a women's university where all mention of man is strictly taboo. She has entered a strict sisterhood where, instead of cocks crowing to signal dawn over Castle Adamant, talented hens serve as alarm clocks!

In order to claim his childhood bride (to whom he was betrothed when twice her age) Prince Hilarion infiltrates Castle Adamant, disguises himself in women's clothing and camps it up in drag as a means of convincing the female students of his basic femininity. What happens after that is pure Savoyard delight, with the chorus of "girl graduates" and "Daughters of the Plough" adding to the general merriment.

Under Barbara Heroux's deliciously droll direction, Rick Williams made hay out of Old King Gama's nastiness. His three idiotically macho sons Arac, Guron and Scynthius (played by William Neil, Behrend J. Eilers

and Lawrence Ewing) did a splendid job of lampooning stupid, butch men whose only purposes in life are to grunt, fart and do battle. I particularly enjoyed Marie Goff Clyde's performance as the frustrated and power-hungry Lady Blanche (Professor of Abstract Science) and William Neely's stalwart portrayal of a medieval picture book King Hildebrand. Dan Gensemer's winning characterization of Prince Hilarion (both in and out of drag) received strong support from Kenneth Pound's horny Cyril and Martin Lewis's winsome Florian. Appealing in her armor, soprano Susan Narucki did credit to Princess Ida's turn-of-the-century feminist tendencies.

The appealing sets and costumes for this production were designed by John C. Gilkerson. Baker Peeples conducted the Lamplighters' orchestra with a strong sense of Savoyard style and a good time was had by all.

(Continued on page 32)



Valencienne (Stella Zambalis) and her Grisettes take over the Ponteviedrian embassy in *The Merry Widow*.



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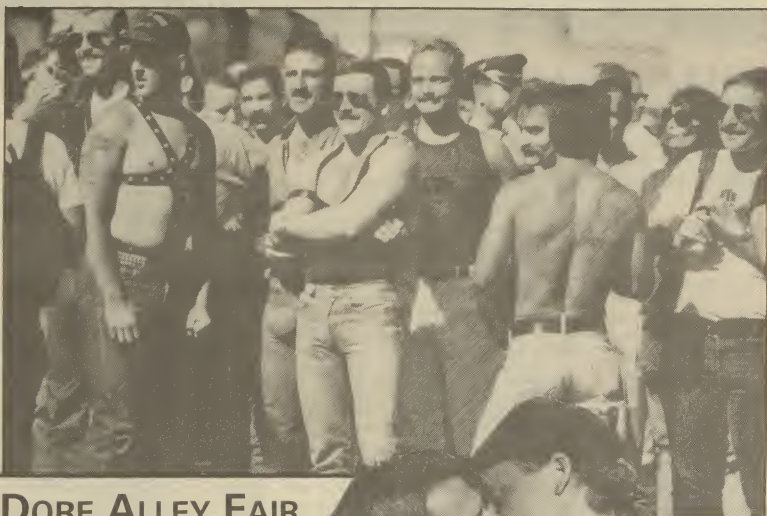
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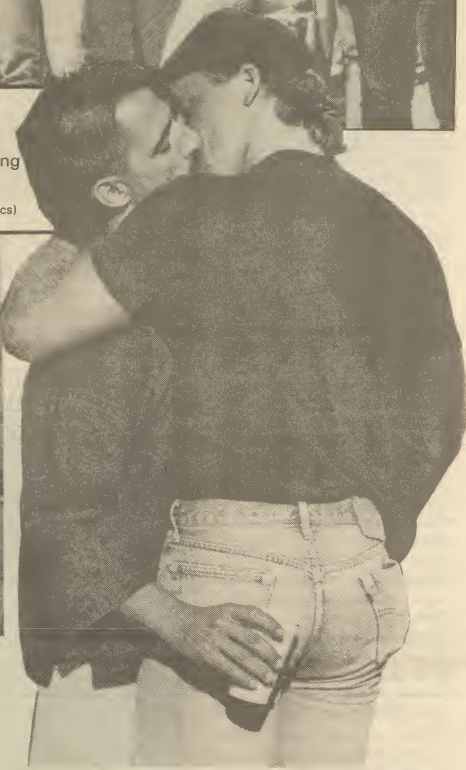
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DORE ALLEY FAIR

Butt-grabbing, smooching, people-watching and whistle-wetting ruled the day.

(Photos: Pruzan, except lower left: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)



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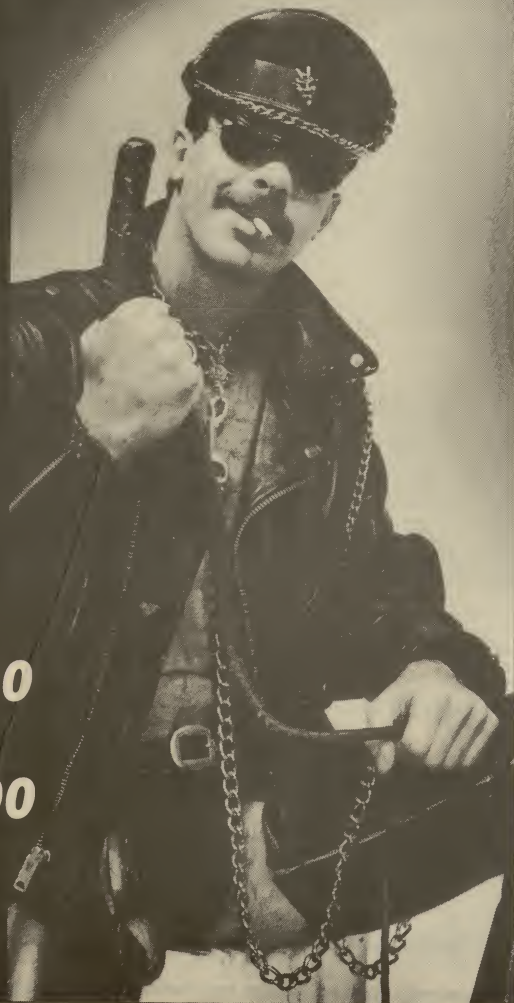
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Heymont

(Continued from page 31)

Money Can't Buy Love

After seeing the Lamplighters perform *Princess Ida*, I found myself wishing that more companies would give audiences a taste of this rare Gilbert & Sullivan treat instead of depending on the familiarity of *The Merry Widow's* tunes and tired old shtick to sell tickets to their opera seasons. I say this because recent productions of *The Merry Widow* have done precious little to tickle my artistic fancy. I'll try to get a hard-on when all those men in tuxedos line up across the stage as Hanna Glawari makes a Dolly Levi-like entrance down the grand staircase of the Pontevedri-an embassy. But the burning question of who gets to marry some rich widow gotten up to look like a drag queen really doesn't capture my imagination.

Here's why: Once you excise "Vilja," "Girls, Girls, Girls" and "The Merry Widow Waltz" from Lehar's operetta, there isn't much to keep people awake. And, after sitting through two more dreary performances of this rapid vehicle, I've decided not to cross paths with Madame Glawari for several seasons. Why? Because, when it comes to being given dramatic substance on the operatic stage, I'm compelled to repeat Oliver Twist's plaintive words: "Please, sir. I want some more!"

Although, with Hal France on the podium, the musicians from the St. Louis Symphony did their best to help matters, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis's new production of *The Merry Widow* left a lot to be desired. Lehar's operetta can only succeed if cast with extremely strong personalities in the principal roles. It was on this precarious reef that OTSL's production floundered.

Try as she might to please the audience, soprano Carole Gale was almost a non-entity as Hanna Glawari. Louis Otey's Count Danilo, while tall and handsome, did little to excite me. While Roger Havranek scored strongly as Baron Zeta, Stella Zambalis's Valencienne and John LaPier's Camille de Rosillon reeked of dinner theatre ham. The only character onstage with any dignity was actor Brendan Burke's Nyegus.

If asked that familiar question ("Class, what's wrong with this picture?") I'd have to lay much of the blame for this production's failure on stage director Richard Cottrell and the frightfully tepid English translation by Edmund Tracy (along with lyrics by Christopher Hassall) which he used. John Conklin's stunning sets and David Collis's elaborate costumes proved to be the strongest assets in this production.

Don't get me wrong: I love beautiful sets and costumes as much as the person sitting next to me. I just hate having to whistle them when I leave the theater.

There's More on Tape Than Steamy Action

by Steve Dambach

One of the convenient things about home video is how much of a fair replacement it can be for being there. In privacy, you can visit performances and experiences you can't or wouldn't get to any other way. Such is the case with two recent videos.

The first, *Finding Our Way, Men Talk About Their Sexuality*, takes us into the intimate group dynamics of a seminar weekend where 12 gay, straight and bi men gathered to speak openly with each other about sex and sexuality in their lives. Although it is a discussion I'd like to have participated in, the video at least lets us look at what happened for them.

As sometimes all one needs to do to get them going is talk with someone or to listen to what they have to say, *Finding Our Way* is an excellent primer for rich discussion. The group leaders didn't have to work much to get these men to talk because it seems as if everyone had a lot to say and wanted to learn, which is a good indication of how it is for us now.

The age of the men involved ranges from 27 to 71, but no agism is evident. The young and the old talk with each other, confront their differences with respect and push some extra emotional baggage aside.

By the end of the weekend, and the video, one of the men admits he was uncomfortable hearing what he heard and saying what he said with other men. He is, however, glad to have gone on with the process.

Another man left after the first night. His reasoning was recorded as part of the video and the weekend went on without him.

If you want to hear about how sex is for these other men, or if you want a glimpse of the interaction going on between these men, both are here.

This tape is short; only forty to-the-point minutes. But *Finding Our Way* applies in the classroom as well as the bedroom. You'll want to talk about what goes on and share your experience after you've watched and listened. *Finding Our Way* is available for the amazing price of \$295 or for rental for \$60 from New Day Films, 853 Broadway, #1210, New York, NY 10003.

And, as sometimes all one needs is to be adored, another video available now presents recent Miss Gay Universe and Mr. Asia-Pacific contests coupled together as a double event at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts that featured Asian men and men performing as women, competing for their separate titles in the same evening. All in all, it is a good balance of smooth flesh.

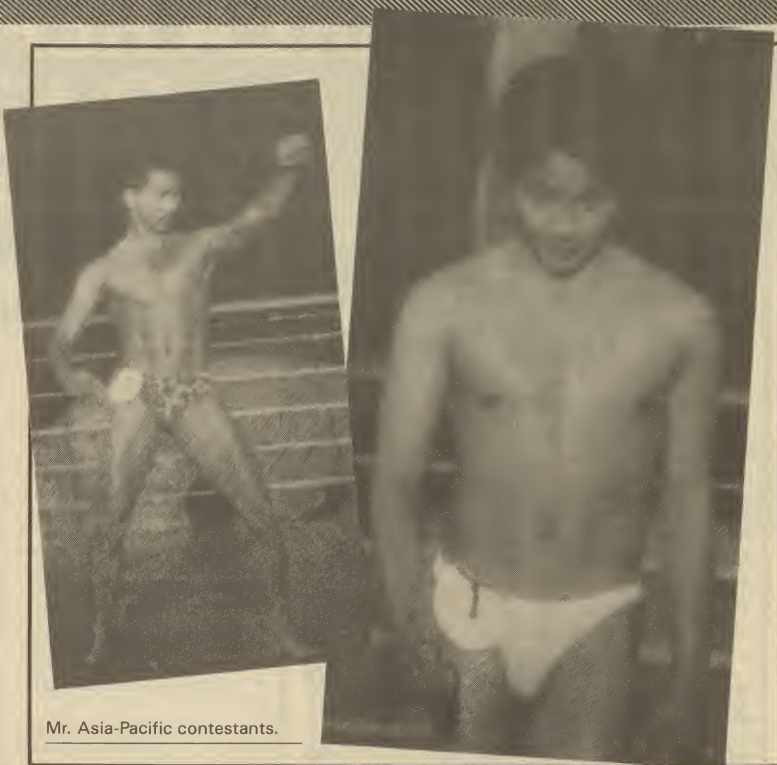
High fashion was the name of the game for the ladies who represented many nations in "native" attire, including a Rambo-esque Israeli gown, a swimsuit event featuring basic black, and an evening wear contest that outdid mainstream pageants by a glittered mile for a night of genderfuck voguing.

The contestants, except for maybe "Eva Peron," weren't in it for the camp but to explore and glorify feminine beauty queen

features not usually associated with drag-poise, charm and model-like smiles. Their control was offset by campy hostess Desiree, but their presentation made this event, at least on video, as real as any Bert Parks-a-thon in Atlantic City could hope to be. In other words, they were believable and, yes, the winner was shocked.

The only unfortunate "drag" element visible in the tape is technical. The video sound was off for the first half of the contest, making it seem as though everybody was lip-synching, even when they were talking. Word has it that there was a *Valley of the Dolls* wig pulling session at the event, but it is not on the tape.

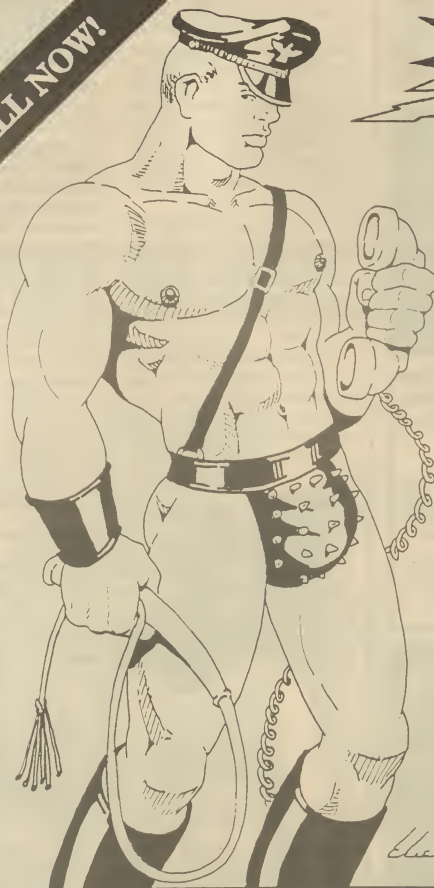
The men competing for Mr. Asia-Pacific flashed sexy smiles and hard bodies it would be tough to come up against, further making this a fun one to rent or buy. It is available at A Different Light.



Mr. Asia-Pacific contestants.

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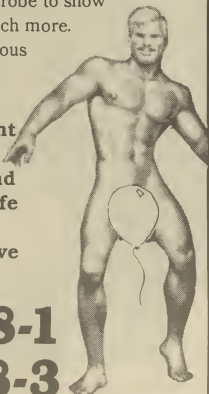
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Tripping Out in the Leather World

Leather communities around the country are making a noble effort to show their local communities that the leather crowd is not a bunch of sicko, perverted men intent on mayhem and pure lust. With the advent of leather titles around the world, most of the men elected to lead their communities have done an admirable job during their one-year tenure.

Not long after the International Mr. Leather title is bestowed upon a deserving man, the Mr. Drummer competition begins for the fall climax of the leather world.

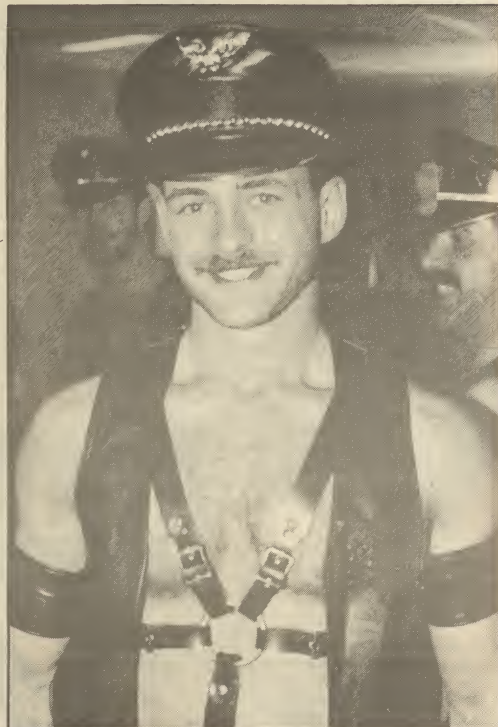
This weekend, practically every major name in the leather community will converge at Arizona's main leather bar, the Bum Steer, for the Mr. Southwest Drummer contest.

No less a personage than Drummer patriarch Tony DeBlase himself will be on hand along with IML '83 Coulter Thomas, IML '88 Michael Pereyra, Mr. Southwest Drummer '88 Wes Decker, and Mr. San Diego Leather Mark Klein (also a runner-up in Mr. Drummer '88).

Master Piercer Jim Ward will be there giving piercing demonstrations and all the leather men from the Southwest will be on hand to compete in one of the major Drummer competitions yet this year. Mr. Southwest Drummer was transferred from Houston to Phoenix in a bidding duel no less frantic than Super Bowl trysts.

The outgoing Mr. Southwest Drummer, Wes Decker, is the main host for the event and our own Alan Selby will be a featured emcee at one of the events. I'm honored to be asked to emcee this event.

The Bum Steer owners are very much into leather and are the main catalysts for most of the leather activity in Arizona and surrounding states. Believe it or not, there is leather in those parts.



Dustin Logan, Mr. Leather of Omaha, Neb., will host a big leather bash Aug. 18-20 in Omaha. (Photo: Marcus)

A huge San Francisco contingent will be on hand for the competition that also includes a tough customer competition and a Drummer Boy contest.

With temperatures ranging in the low to high 100s, it will be more than hot in Phoenix this weekend. Needless to say, there are numerous "play" parties planned for whoever chooses to attend. Hope to see some of you there. If not, you can read all about it here next week.

I was quite impressed at Intl. Mr. Leather in Chicago this past

May, when a stunning leather man was in the competition from, of all places, Omaha, Nebr. This year was the first time a leather man emerged from the Cornhusker State to compete in the Windy City. His name is Dustin Logan and he has mobilized whatever leather community exists in Omaha and Lincoln (the capital) as well as from Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Davenport in neighboring Iowa.

I know what you're thinking. But when you see those husky, naturally athletic farm boys decked out in leather gear, you think



Jim, Bruce and Patrick helped the Dore Alley Fair with their flawless chests in attendance. (Photo: Marcus)

you've died and gone to "Leaven" (Leather Heaven).

The weekend of Aug. 18-20, another big array of leather people will gather in Omaha for Fantasy '89—the first time this has ever been done in Omaha, home of the College World Series and the only other place in the world where mock royalty is crowned annually at the Ak-Sar-Ben coronation (that's Nebraska spelled backward).

IML Guy Baldwin and IMsL Susie Shepherd are only two of the leather luminaries that will be there, again including Drummer's Tony DeBlase, Alan Selby, Mr. NY Leather Bill Murray, and RushRiv Leather Daddy John Ferari, to name just a few. I've been asked to emcee some of the events in the city on the Missouri River.

Dustin Logan is Mr. Leather of Omaha, the former Mr. Gay Nebraska, and a member of the Two Wheelers of Omaha (TWO), the only MC in the state. He has managed to snag some of the leather world's biggest names for the Fantasy '89 in Omaha. If you're interested in exploring this "first" call (402) 558-0474. With all that Dustin's got going already, it should be a very interesting experience. There's more coming your way, too, but why spring the surprises so early?

★ ★ ★

For an event that was poorly publicized (half the leather people I know didn't even know about it), the annual Dore Alley Fair by Up Your Alley productions managed to get a decent crowd for their block party Sunday, Aug. 6. It was tits and ass galore under balmy skies from about noon to 1900 and the usual assortment of attention grabbers were there to see and be seen.

The biggest crowd pleaser was the Hug-A-Hunk platform where Doris Fish (in drag, naturally) managed to drag a few dudes up so you could pay \$5 to hug one or all of them for no longer than one whole minute. It was all for the AIDS Emergency Fund, of course.

Across the way, the Dunk-A-Hunk booth saw some pitching arms dump the hunks in ice cold water.

The Men Behind Bars crew managed to create a bushy atmosphere with plants and palms while their blenders pushed out gallons of Margaritas that were definitely full of tequila.

Empress Pat Montclair was outfitted in a stunningly studded red leather gown that looked like it was painted on—escorted by (no, not the Emperor!) a hunky looking David, who gets better and better looking the older he gets!

And people didn't leave their pets at home (like they should!), and there was a small contingent of pups, kittens and one exotic man with two snakes entwined around his body!

The entertainment was great too, although the wind didn't help much blowing the sounds hither and yon. Miss Joan Eva Duarte Peckerhead flew in from LAX to team up with Mr. S.F. Leather Peter Austin emceeing the show portions. Marga Gomez, Irene Solderberg and the rock group got a lot of applause. I didn't see Ken "Glitter" Wright, but he was probably counting all the money so he can give the community a full report on how much they made and how much will be contributed to the community, right?

While all this was going on, Patrick Toner, the originator of

Up Your Alley Productions, was in Columbia, S.C., emceeing the Mid-Atlantic Mr. Drummer competition. Patrick says he'll never do that one again—only four contestants, half the judges didn't show up, two leather men got assaulted by rednecks during the weekend, young punks drove around the decaying host motel all night screaming "Go home, faggots," and the Drummer Boy contest was cancelled due to lack of interest (and participation, I guess). With all due respects to the producer of that particular contest, a very very reliable source said that the only thing Southerners hate more than blacks are gays! Now you know why they call this town Mecca. Thank God for ACT UP and CUAV. We at least have a fighting chance here!

Over at the Eagle, the S.F. Trojans football team enjoyed the spillover from the Dore Alley Fair for their beer bust. By the time I got there, not a pigskin dude was in sight—well, after all those Margaritas, even James Buhler's eyes were on d-i-m! Thanks, "Bubbles" and Mr. Tits—Candel Rey doesn't realize how close she came to chaffing us home! Thank God for Luxor!

The Odd Couple (female version) played by two Drag Queens (in this case it is popular to capitalize that nomenclature, Lily Street and Stephanie Miller, opened over this past weekend and everyone's raving about it. It plays through Aug. 27 (on Wednesdays through Sunday) in the Studio at the Rhino—you really should see it!

And capping off the weekend, big crowd(s) turned out for the \$10 AIDS Emergency Fund dinner Sunday night at the Cove on Castro; they had a wide variety of entrees to choose from and the whole staff donated their time and energy to raise hundreds of dollars! Good show (every penny counts!) and kudos to Solange and Mordecai for their community spirit and gracious gesture!

★ ★ ★

Coming up for your consideration in the coming days:

Saturday afternoon, Robert Chesley, Mark Thompson and Joseph Beam will read selections

from *Gentle Warriors*, Geoff Mains' novel, which came out in print just a week before he departed. It takes place at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro beginning at 1500 hours. Mains' first book, *Urban Aborigines*, was a landmark in the field of S/M theory and practice and his second tome is equally enlightening. I'll be in Phoenix so must miss it, but I urge you to attend this function.

Tonight, Aug. 10, the Bondage Buddies are having another little tie-in from 2000 to 2200 for only \$5. Call 621-6294 for location.

Also, who said consenting adults were being suppressed? Dick's Double Header is this Friday and Saturday night Aug. 11 and 12—you know where. Service begins at 2200; no one admitted after midnight. Presented by Dr. Richard Feast and the Brothers of the Sextine Chapel, of course! It's \$10 for members and \$12 for guests.

The Rest Stop support Center is having a garage sale at 457 Duboce on Saturday, so bring cash for some good bargains. Their flyer didn't state what time!

Sunday, the SFGDs take over the Eagle for the Midsummer Madness Beer Bust (\$7) from 1500 to 1800, proceeds to the AIDS Emergency Fund. If Pushy Phyllis gets pushy, push her back!

And don't forget the Constantines of the Bay Area run Aug. 18-20. It'll cost you \$90 for the weekend but you do get a 72-hour bar, bike and buddy events, people events, campsite awards, etc. This is one of the runs where several bike categories compete with lots of prizes for everyone. Send your \$90 to P.O. Box 4964, San Francisco, CA 94101, but do it today! There's more coming your way later!

DO DO DO IT BY DISHING IT

Whoever said: "If you've got it, flaunt it; but if you flaunt it, you can expect to have it trashed!" certainly was an astute person. That's why I have to really hand it to the Eagle's man-about-trash, Jeff Hettmansperger. He appears in

(Continued on next page)



A target of the sisters' pie throwing booth baits the crowd. (Photo: Pruzan)

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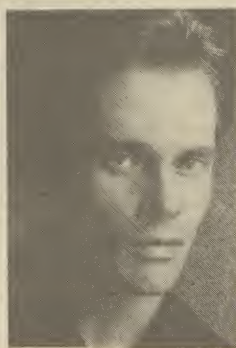
(Continued from previous page)

the latest edition of Stormy Leather's catalog. While some of you men may not be familiar with Stormy Leather, it's one of the state's biggest leather suppliers for lesbians and other people into latex and leather garb. Jeff appears in several latex outfits and looks quite comfortable in that setting. Besides all that, Jeff also recently bowled a perfect 300 game in the local bowling league. I don't think Jeff will have to worry about being trashed for his latest accomplishments, do you?

And speaking of the Eagle, another vicious rumor going around with absolutely no bit of truth to it. No, repeat, no, the S.F. Eagle has not been sold! Who starts these vicious rumors anyway? And the Blessing of the Bikes usually held in August has been postponed until September. Adequate notice will be given beforehand.

Apparently T. Joseph Lynch is not amused that the Imperial Board of Trustees has scheduled the Mr./Ms. Gay S.F. Contest on the same night as the Golden Gate Guards' weekend bike run and the Oakland Star Empire Coronation. That would be Sept. 30. That same night, Team San Francisco is having a big bash too. If you're into royalty here and abroad, non-royal titles, jock affairs and bike runs, it looks like you're S.O.L., doesn't it? I don't think these things were planned to compete, it's just the way things happen. T. Joseph, darrrring, let them all kill each other!

Hey, hang in there; do your duty; give what you can; Live, love, laugh! Just be sure you do it in leather. ▼



Video Star Johnny Dawes Dies of AIDS

Brian Lee, also known as Johnny Dawes, star of numerous all-male adult movies, died at age 36 of AIDS complications on July 25 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The actor was known for his boy-next-door handsomeness, beneath which lay a complex personality of multiple talents and interests. In addition to his work in adult films, he was also a noted photographer, filmmaker and writer.

Lee attended high school in Akron, Ohio, and graduated in 1971. Soon after, his love for movies prompted him to move to Hollywood where he remained for the rest of his life.

There, Lee performed as a dancer in Southern California's first aboveground all-male erotic revue, *A Walk On The Wild Side*, which was presented at the Beverly Cinema in 1973. He also danc-

ed on stage at Troopers Hall in shows produced by Pat Rocco.

Lee's stint as an erotic dancer led to his acting work in all-male adult movies. In 1985, at the height of his career as a porn star, he was named "Best Actor" by the Gay Producers Association of America for his performance in the film *Pleasure Beach*. Lee's irreverent sense of humor was evident in his acceptance speech for the award. In it, he thanked his mother for not having an abortion and quipped that if his late father were alive, the award would have killed him.

His first role in adult movies was in the film *Bad, Bad Boys* (1979). In the decade that followed, he appeared in two dozen other productions, including *Skin Deep*, *Doing It*, *Private Pleasures of John Holmes*, *Revenge of the Nighthawk*, *Valley Boys*, *Games*, *Trick Time*, *Hot Stuff*, *Big Business* and *Soap Studs*.

He performed in the stage plays *Amadeus* at the Weather-vane Theater in Akron, Ohio, in 1985 and the *Frank and Drac Show* at the Hannah Theater in Cleveland in 1987.

He appeared in his most noted stage role in 1985 for the Los Angeles premiere of *Night Sweats*, a gay-themed play opening at the Fifth Estate Theater. His performance of Richard, the male lead role, won widespread acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

In the year before his death, he made his first non-adult film appearance as a Russian spy in the soon-to-be-released independent KM International feature film, *The Domino Principle*, and was scheduled to be in Orion Picture's film *Silent Night, Deadly Night, Part III*. ▼

Stephen Frederick Darrow

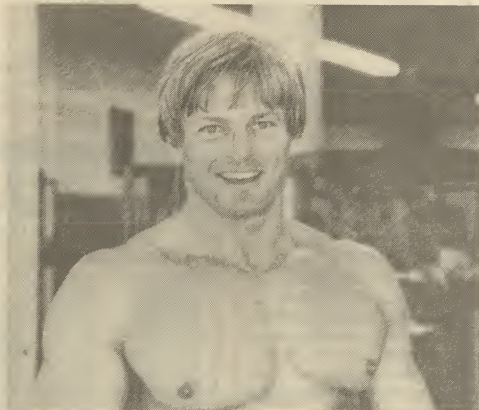
May 6, 1951-July 26, 1989

Long-time Bay Area resident Stephen Frederick Darrow lay the last three hours of his life in the arms of his lover, Michael Pereyra, the morning of July 26, 1989. Stephen was born in Niskayuna, N.Y., but lived most of his life in the South Bay here in Northern California.

Darrow attended Leland High School in San Jose where he was the captain of the water polo and swim teams. He was the president of his graduating class in 1969. He later attended the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated with a B.A. in architecture. As an avid cross-country skier, he was the first person to cross the S. Elias Range in Alaska and landed on the cover of *Wilderness Magazine* for this accomplishment. He also taught cross-country skiing at Yosemite National Park.

In 1979, Steve moved to New York where he became a major fashion model for Bill Connors and traveled extensively in Europe and other foreign countries. In 1982, Steve won the Mr. San Francisco Body Building Contest and under the magnificent lens of famed photographer Jim French, became one of *Colt Studios'* most outstanding models.

In 1985, Steve Darrow made a permanent home in Fallbrook, Calif., north of San Diego, with his love, Michael Pereyra. Their seven-acre ranch was used extensively to grow vegetables for the AIDS Buddy System Food Bank of San Diego. As a member of the California Nurserymen's Association, this project became one of



the major suppliers of fresh vegetables for AIDS/ARC patients in the San Diego area.

Among his many many interests, Stephen at one time was the head bartender in New York's Studio 54. His many friends across the nation join Michael Pereyra in mourning the loss of a dedicated and sincere man. Stephen was a much admired and much sought after model for many legitimate advertising campaigns and modeling agencies. He was well known in political and athletic circles as well as in the leather community. He was the light of Michael's life. Michael's grueling schedule as International Mr. Leather 1988 is a shining example of the love and devotion they had for each other. Stephen's pride in the accomplishments of Michael as

IML was ever-present; he encouraged Michael to travel and make his title honorable, which he did.

Friends across the state and the nation are invited to attend a memorial gathering on Sunday, Aug. 20 at the ranch in Fallbrook, Calif., at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the AIDS Assistance Fund, San Diego, in the name of Stephen F. Darrow.

Friends of Michael and Stephen are saddened once more at the loss of a true friend and supporter of the many causes we all face. Stephen left us knowing he had, through sharing his Michael with the world, indeed left a living legacy behind; no, not forever, but to meet again on the other side. Our prayers are with you today and always, Stephen and Michael. ▼

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FRIDAY 11

- **An Evening at Le Cage:** open run. Tue-Thur. & Sun.: 8 p.m.; Fri. & Sat.: 8 & 10:30 p.m. \$17.50 w/two drink min. Tickets: 391-9999 or BASS/Ticketmaster. On Broadway, 435 Broadway. Light dinners and full bar available.
- **El Rio:** Enjoy oysters on the half shell, happy hour 5-7 p.m. DJ Elton Brown. No cover. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- **Fraternity:** progressive modern music. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Scooters, 22 4th St. 777-0880.
- **SF Hotshots Men's Gay Basketball:** All levels welcome. 1525 Waller St. 6:30-9 p.m. Tony Jasinski, 621-2710.
- **Chanskinkay:** Performs music of the Andes on traditional instruments. 8 p.m. SF's Old First Church, Van Ness & Sacramento, \$8 general; \$5 students, seniors. Tickets at STBS Union Square, at door, or call Old First Concerts at 415/474-1608 for more information.
- **We're Into Older Men:** Joys & trials of getting old. MCC's "Older Men Together" action/discussion group. 7:30-9 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.
- **Mildred Pierce:** Joan Crawford won an Oscar for her role as the dowdy housewife who leaves her husband and becomes the owner of a restaurant chain. 8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 893-2300.
- **The Body You Want:** Three-artist installation exhibition: Tony Greene, Doug Ischar, Millie Wilson. Reception tonight, 7-9 p.m. Thru Sept. 8. Wed-Sun 2-6 p.m. Southern Exposure Gallery, Project Artaud, 401 Alabama/17th St.
- **Chaucer Overeasy:** By John Lo Faso, directed by Gary-Joe Ortega. San Francisco Performers Theatre produces a zany twist on the bawdy English poet. Fri & Sat, 8 p.m. through Aug. Fort Mason Cntr, Bldg C, Rm 300, Marina/Laguna. \$10. Call 415/346-5550.
- **Outlook:** Lesbian/gay video plays the 2nd & 4th Fridays each month. 7:30 p.m. Cable 30 Cupertino, Los Altos.
- **Intersection:** A group exhibition of sculpture, drawings & paintings by disabled adult artists. Creative Growth Art Cntr, 355 24th St., Oakland. Thru Aug 25, FREE. Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 836-2340.
- **Electric City:** South Bay, KCAT, every Friday 7:30 p.m.
- **Fetish Night:** 735 Tehama, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Exhibit the fetish of your choice. Males 18+. Info: 621-1887.

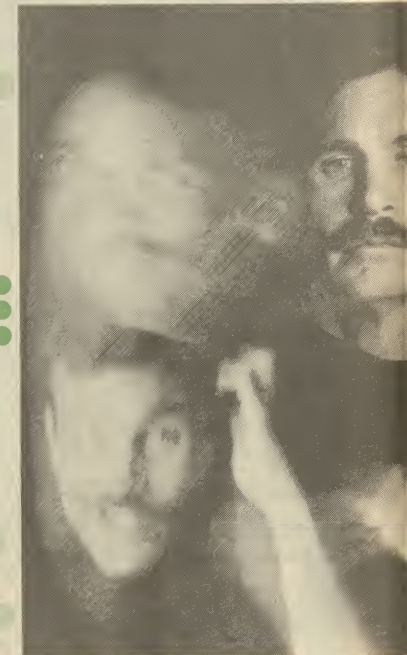
SATURDAY 12

- **El Rio:** Motown Dance Party: MVP plus Girl's Can't Help It. 10 p.m. 1 a.m. \$5. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- **Mystique:** dance to the rapture of over 400 women at Scooters, 22 4th St. 227-0135.
- **In Celebration Of Life:** Auction & picnic fundraiser. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Auction at 2 p.m. Bring lots of money! Hot chicken & cool beverages! Upper Jack Rabbit Picnic Area, Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa. \$2 park admission per car. Lesbian/gay clean & sober event.
- **Jazz For The Homeless Concert:** 8:30 & 10:30 p.m. Bob Markison & the Jazz Doctors, trumpeter David Hardiman, vocalist Betty Blount. \$10 at door. Milestones, 376 5th St., SF. Jazz for the Homeless: 753-2669; Milestones: 777-9997.
- **SF Mime Troupe:** 2 p.m. Mission Dolores Park, 18th St/Dolores, SF. FREE. Info: 285-1720.
- **Hot Times At The Hacienda:** A benefit for Food for Thought. 1-7 p.m. at Hacienda Del Sol, 17525 Sweetwater Springs Rd. (off Armstrong Woods Rd), Guerneville. \$7 for barbeque & pool-bring suit & towel. No host bar available. Live music all afternoon at poolside. Reserve: 707/887-1647.
- **A Different Light Bookstore:** Mark Thompson, Robert Chelsey & Joseph Beam, a memorial reading of Geoff Mains' *Gentle Warriors*. 3 p.m. 489 Castro.
- **Stanford Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Community Cntr:** And the Gay & Lesbian Alliance at Stanford are sponsoring a dance 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Elliot Program Cntr in Governor's Corner complex, Stanford Campus. \$3. Soft drinks sold, music by dj. LGBCC: 725-4222.
- **Bi Friendly Hootenanny Potluck:** Berkeley location, 8 p.m.-midnight. Bring music, instruments & vocal chords. Tin ears welcome as well as musically inept. Snack & beverages to share. FREE. Mark, 652-2189.
- **Cruzin' The Castro:** Walking tour of our community from a historical perspective. Trevor Hailey's wealth of local history and delightful stream of vignettes explains how & why San Francisco became the "Gay Mecca" of the world. Offered daily at 10 a.m. Call 550-8110.
- **Men Seeking Relationships:** Mixer/workshop, MCC Bldg, 150 Eureka, SF. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5. Social Hour follows small group discussions. Sponsored by Partners Institute, 343-8541.
- **Federal Lesbians And Gays (FLAG):** Do-se-do down to the Live Oak School, 135 Diamond, SF at 7:30 p.m. and learn to square dance with FLAG from the Foggy City Dancers. There will also be a dance performance. FREE. No-host bar. All welcome. Call 695-9174.

- **Recovery: Finding & Healing the Self:** A healing group for gay men dealing with recovery issues. John Acevedo, MSW, facilitator. Open group, no appointment needed. FREE (donations welcome). Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning July 29. Arrive on time—no admittance during Visualizations or Rituals. Min. of 3 days clean & sober is suggested. 18th Street Services, 217 Church St. Call 861-4898 for more information..
- **Celestial Krewé de Cuir Rush Party:** For prospective members and those interested in celebrating a leather Mardi Gras in San Francisco. For invitation and info call 255-4663.
- **Leather Bear Party:** Social/sexual gathering of like minded men into leather, leathersex and hairy bear-like men. FREE. 9 p.m.-midnight. Call 267-3102 for location.
- **Gay Rescue Mission:** Truck Stop-X film. Free. 7:30-8 p.m.; \$5, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. 1080 Folsom, 863-4882.

SUNDAY 13

- **El Rio:** Features Tunbio Y Querdas. 4-8 p.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- **Electric City:** Sundays, SF cable 35, 10 p.m. Desiree, Inga, John Sugar, Dr. Maggi Rubenstein.
- **Oakland Municipal Band:** Concert highlighting Movie & TV tunes. FREE. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Edoff Memorial Bandstand, Lakeside Park, Oakland.
- **A Different Light Bookstore:** Gay Writers Series—Steve White, D-L Alvarez, Jerome & Cliff Hengst. 7 p.m. 489 Castro. 431-0891.
- **Cabaret Singer Caylia Chaiken & Guest Mikio Hirata:** \$7 cover, reservations recommended. 8 p.m. Galleon Bar & Restaurant, 718 14th St./Church & Market. 431-0253.
- **Seth Montfort, Pianist, Performs Chopin & Others:** \$5 admission. 5-6 p.m. Dancer's Stage, 60 Brady, near Gough & Market.
- **SF Mime Troupe:** 2 p.m. Glen Park, Bosworth & O'Shaughnessy Blvd, SF. FREE. Info: 285-1720.
- **SF Hotshots Men's Gay Basketball Team:** Collingwood gym, 18th St. & Collingwood. 6-8 p.m. All levels welcome. Showers available. Tony Jasinski, 621-2710.
- **SF Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Historical Society & Affiliations:** Rocky O'Donovan, genealogist, historian & GLHS of Utah member, will speak on social networks of lesbians and gays in Salt Lake City from the 1890s to the 1940s. 7:45 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka. SFBAGLHS members free, \$5 general.
- **Bisexual Women's Support Group:** SF location. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Diedra, 626-3910.
- **Bisexual Men's Support Group:** SF location. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Andrew, 626-3910.
- **Freedom Day Parade & Celebration Committee:** General membership, 5 p.m. at 1519 Mission. 864-FREE.
- **Men's Brunch for Older Gay Men (60+):** FREE. Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero. 12 noon-3 p.m. Please bring food to share. GLOE: 626-7000.



• **Intimacies:** By playwright Michael Kearns. Kearns transforms tragedy into triumph in his astonishing one-man portrait of six people with AIDS. Climate Theatre,

WEEK

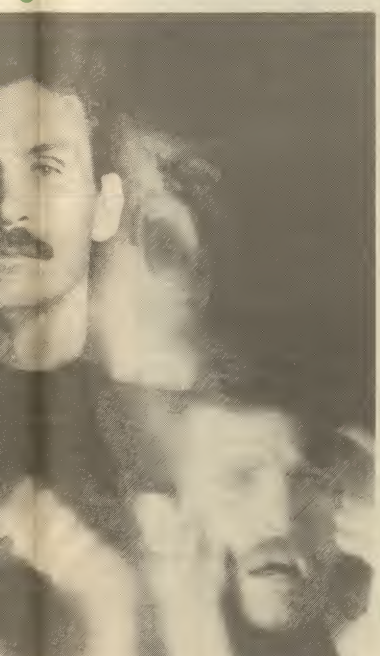
- **SGSRA-BAC:** Roping clinic, location to be announced.
- **Community Spirit Healing Circle:** doors at 7 p.m.; arrive by 7:15 p.m.; Circle at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Zen Cntr Guest House, 273 Page/Octavia.
- **Men's Clinic:** free/confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. AIDS/ARC counselling and referrals. Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., 6-8 p.m. Call 644-0425.
- **Gay Men's Sketch:** Informal drawing of male model at Hibernia Beach, 18th & Castro, around noon. FREE. Open to men & women. Call 621-6294 for info.

MONDAY 14

- **Support Group for Older Gay Men (60+):** Operation Concern, 1853 Market. FREE. 7-9 p.m. Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE): 626-7000.
- **Bi Friendly South Bay:** Palo Alto location. 7 p.m. Join other bisexual men & women for dinner & conversation. FREE. Steve, 415/968-5902, or Kristine, 408/267-5551.
- **Dynamics of Color Conference Orientation/Update Meeting:** Women's Bldg Multipurpose Rm, 7-9:30 p.m. Anyone interested welcome to attend. We will be describing the working committee, talking about the conference planning process, and eating. Wheelchair access. ASL interpreted. 552-5677 (voice); 530-7803 (TDD).
- **D.J.'s in Walnut Creek:** 1535 Olympic Blvd. Attitude adjustment hour prices all night. 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Play pool & darts. 930-0300.
- **Frank Banks at the Piano Bar:** Mon & Tue, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. New Belle Saloon, 1203 Polk. 775-6905.
- **Town Meeting Toward A Lesbian/Gay Community Center For San Francisco:** 7-9 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka (between 18th & 19th streets).

TUESDAY 15

- **Electric City:** Lesbian/gay video. Tuesdays, 10 p.m., cable 30 in Mountain View, Los Altos, Cupertino. Desiree, Inga, John Sugar, Dr. Maggi Rubenstein.
- **Modern Times Bookstore:** Open lesbian/gay poetry reading. Experienced and first-time readers welcome. 7:30 p.m. Sign-up at 7:15. 968 Valencia. 282-9246.
- **Ballroom Dancing for Gay & Lesbians:** Cha-cha 50 Oak, 4th floor, at Van Ness. 7-8 p.m. beginners; 8-9 p.m. intermediate. \$7/class; \$12/both. 995-4962.
- **Bi Friendly East Bay:** La Pena, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley. 7 p.m. Dinner & conversation. Susan, 524-0574.
- **Bi Night Out:** Castro neighborhood restaurant. 7 p.m. Dinner & conversation. Karla, 863-5961, or Pierre, 753-0687.
- **Gay & Lesbian Sierrans:** Monthly meeting 7:30 p.m. Sierra Club Headquarters, Polk & Ellis, SF. 653-5012.



252 9th St/Howard & Folsom. Aug 15-19, 8 p.m. \$10-12 (\$1 discount with canned food donation to SF AIDS Food Bank). 626-9196.

- **SF National Organization for Women:** Orientation 7 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. US workforce in the Year 2000--Women at Work. Madeline Mixer, Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau of the US Dept. of Labor. Also, Diana Webb, Pres. of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St./Guerrero & Valencia. FREE. Childcare (861-8880), rides home arranged, public welcome. Call 981-5282.

WEDNESDAY 16

- **Mercury:** Progressive/urban house dancing for boys and girls 18+. \$5. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 520 4th St./Bryant.
- **El Rio:** Culture Clash featuring Ricardo Salinas, Richard Montoya & Herbert Siquenza. \$5. 9-11 p.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- **Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune:** The off-handed, humorous love story is extended to Sept 3. Magic Theatre Southside, Fort Mason Cntr, Bldg D. Wed-Sat 8:30 p.m.; Sun 2 & 7:30 p.m. \$11-21. Box office 441-8822, STBS, Ticketron. Handicapped access. Group rates available.
- **Castro Lions Club:** 6:30 p.m. Optional dinner \$10. Shanti Project Exec. Dir. Eric Rofes will speak on the past work and future goals of the organization. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market. Bill Rowe, 824-0535, Bill Perniconi, 553-2105.
- **Electric City:** Lesbian/gay video. 8 p.m. on SF cable 35. Desires, Inga, John Sugar, Dr. Maggi Rubenstein.
- **Legal Clinic for Gay/Lesbian Seniors:** Sponsored by GLOE. 10 a.m.-Noon. By appointment only. FREE. Call 626-7000 for more info.
- **Wednesday Matinee for Seniors:** Lively afternoon of movies, discussion & refreshment. FREE. North of Market Senior Services, 333 Turk. 2:15-4 p.m. Call 626-7000.
- **Memorial Mass For Those Who Have Died Of AIDS:** St. Mary's Cathedral, Geary & Gough. 7 p.m. in Cathedral Chapel behind main altar. Catholic Charities, St. Mary's Staff, Archdiocese of SF, sponsors.
- **Santa Cruz Lesbian & Gay Community Cntr:** Game Night. Loudon Nelson Cntr, 7-9:45 p.m. Bring your favorite game or play ours! 408/462-2610.
- **Gay & Lesbian Older Writers (50+):** Meets every Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market, SF. Sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders: 626-7000.

THURSDAY 17

- **El Rio:** Blue Thursday: The Homewreckers. No cover. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- **Climate Theatre:** Amoretto Di Gazelle, the second episode of the multi-media adult puppet extravaganza Bitzy La Fever's Kingdom of Passion. Opens tonight at 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$8, Thursday; \$9 Fri-Sun. 252 9th St. 626-9196. Runs Thursdays-Sundays, Aug. 10-Sept. 10. Sunday performances begin at 8 p.m.
- **Last Summer At Bluefish Cove:** By Jane Chambers, directed by Gemma Whelan. The story of seven women who have been reuniting every summer for years except this year is different. Thru Aug 27. Thurs-Sat nights, 8 p.m. Sunday matinee 3 p.m. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., SF. \$10-12. Call 861-5079.
- **Ballroom & Latin Dancing for Gays & Lesbians:** Cha-cha workshop. 7-8 p.m. \$10/class. 50 Oak st., 4th floor at Van Ness. 995-4962.
- **Old Wives' Tales Bookstore:** 7:30 p.m. Robbie Somers reads from her new book *Pleasures*, a sizzling collection of erotica recently published by Naiad Press. 1009 Valencia. 821-4675. Wheelchair access. Call for childcare, hearing impaired. No perfumes or scents please.
- **Bob Sandner at the Piano Bar:** Thur-Sat, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; Sun, 6-10 p.m. New Belle Saloon, 1203 Polk. 775-6905.
- **Shanti PWA Activities Program:** Gourmet Cooking Party. For PWAs, this evening event at Tante Marie's cooking School, promises to be delicious. \$10 gets you a cooking lesson, followed by dinner. Advanced registration needed: call Joe, 777-2273.
- **Bay Area Bisexual Network Panel/Discussion:** "Bisexuals Living With AIDS." Women's Bldg, 18th St., SF. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$1-5 s/s. Call 564-BABN.
- **Grief Support Group:** Begins Aug 10 for 8 weeks. Closed beginning Sept 14. Led by Anne Grant, PhD, in cooperation with Hospice By The Bay. 7-9 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. 861-0877.
- **Gay Rescue Mission:** Watersports-X film. Free 7:30-8 p.m.; \$5 8 p.m.-1 a.m. 1080 Folsom. 863-4882.
- **Older Gay Men's Friendship Group (60+):** Meets at 2:15 p.m. at the Friendship Room, 711 Eddy St., SF. FREE. Lively discussions & Bay Area outings. GLOE: 626-7000.
- **Gay Men's Sketch:** Classical nude modeling for advanced artists. One hour poses. \$12. 1229 Folsom. 7-10 p.m. Call 621-6294 for reservation.
- **Positive Opportunities for Wellness:** Support group for men with HIV+, ARC, or AIDS. 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Facilitated by Julian Baird. Refreshments. Call 285-3561.

JAPANTOWN BOWL



FALL BOWLING LEAGUES

Monday

GAY GAMES III LEAGUE: League starts on September 18 and will end with a one-week trip to Vancouver for Gay Games III on August 4-11. Everything is included in the weekly fee: bowling, trophies, airfare, hotel, etc. This will be a 90% handicap league with teams composed of 5 bowlers—all male, all female or mixed. Weekly cost is \$22.50. League will bowl 42 weeks with Vancouver trip as the GRAND FINALE. Mondays at 8:45 p.m.

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE: This will be a short league—14 weeks. This is a great league for someone who has never bowled in a league or someone who is unsure about long 25-30 week winter league commitment. It starts on September 18. The cost is \$8.50 per person per week. Teams consist of 5 players with an 80% handicap. Mondays at 8:45 p.m.

Tuesday

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE: This is the largest league at Japantown Bowl (it was 20 teams last year). If you want to meet new people, this league is for you. It starts on September 26—5 to a team—90% handicap—\$9.00 per week—Tuesdays at 8:45 p.m.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE: The Wednesday league is, perhaps, our most competitive league: Five players to a team, it has an 80% handicap and a \$9.00 per week fee. It begins on September 20. Wednesdays at 8:45 p.m.

Thursday

THURSDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNITY LEAGUE: This league is perfect for the second or third shift worker—it starts at 1:00 p.m. and bartenders have been happy bowlers for years. 3 bowlers to a team. 90% handicap. \$6.50 per week. It starts on September 21.

Friday

FRIDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE: A great league for the individual who wants a non-competitive, social-oriented situation. It's also a great way to start off the weekend. 100% handicap. Friday at 6:15. \$8.50 per week. Starts September 8. 3 on a team.

Saturday

GAY GAMES III LEAGUE: This is the same kind of league as the Monday Gay Games III league, except that you need only 4 bowlers to a team. Perfect for the person who works second shift during the week who wants to go to Vancouver. All details same as Monday League. \$22.50 per week. Starts September 16. Saturdays at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE: One of our most popular leagues. You pay \$11.50 per bowler per week with most of that going toward a weekend trip to Reno at the end of the season. 4 bowlers to a team. 90% handicap. It starts on October 29. Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

THESE LEAGUES HAVE ALL BEEN DESIGNED FOR THE NOVICE BOWLER AS WELL AS THE EXPERIENCED BOWLER—THEY'RE ALL FUN REGARDLESS OF YOUR LEVEL OF ABILITY. THE EMPHASIS IS ON FUN!!!!

IF YOU WISH FURTHER INFORMATION OR YOU WANT TO JOIN ANY OF THESE LEAGUES PLEASE CONTACT:

WILL SNYDER 921-6200



Act Up Against Sen. Helms

The ravages of the Vietnam War as televised in the late '60s and early '70s changed forever the way that Americans preview the world, and no doubt drove many from their TV table encampments around the newshour show back to the kitchen for a more appetizing dinner environment. In that tightly composed television frame the networks extended our vision overseas, over time, over the battle strewn bodies bloodied beyond recognition by bombs and bullets and failed foreign policies.

To many viewers, these images were obscene (read: deeply offensive to morality or decency; esp. designed to incite to lust or depravity). Murder, massacre and rape, the side effects of war, seeped into our lives between the lines of reporters' commentaries, and through the lines on the faces of soldiers torn apart by the experiences of torture and death, now returning to a country torn apart by opinions on morality and patriotism.

While dozens of books have been written that explore hundreds of facts and a myriad of theories about the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, one fact remains certain: it is still our essential right to pick and choose the chapters of history that we want to read, or view, or hear, or believe. This is not China, and the Vietnam War did not happen in Tienamen Square.

Yet, a major battle is being fought right here to preserve our freedom of expression and our democratic right to pursue truth and knowledge of our history through art.

Last week Sen. Jesse Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, is trying to prevent us from exercising our rights. Incited/excited by a traveling exhibit of homoerotic photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe that was organized by Philadelphia's Institute of Contemporary Art, Helms found out that the institute received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for \$30,000 in 1988.

A photograph by Andres Serrano that depicts a plastic crucifix submerged in the artist's urine also brought on an attack by Helms when it was disclosed that Serrano had received a \$15,000 grant from the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C., which is a recipient of funds from the NEA.

In retaliation, Helms tacked on an amendment to an \$11 billion Interior appropriations bill that would cut the NEA's budget next year by \$45,000 and went on to forbid the NEA from awarding any grants to the Philadelphia Art Institute or the Southeastern Center for the next five years.

Although Helms refused to get specific about the artist's work, the *Examiner* reported that he

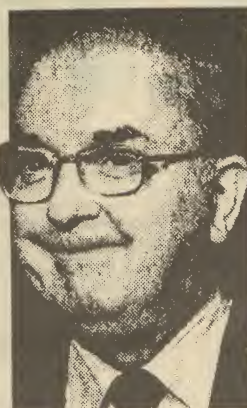
was seen on the Senate floor flipping through a catalog from the Mapplethorpe exhibit with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd.

Was Helms thinking, "The end is in sight!" as he leafed through the catalog. Bad pun. Our end may be in sight and then out of sight for good if we allow these self-righteous lawmakers to censor our art and consequently our history on an angry whim.

The Helms amendment states that federal funds cannot be used to "promote, disseminate or produce obscene or indecent materials, including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts; or material that denigrates the objects or beliefs of the adherents of a particular religion or non-religion."

While some legislators say they doubt that the amendment will become a law, let's not permit Sen. Jesse to "take the helm" on the matter of funding for the arts. Please write to your members of Congress and ask them to resoundingly defeat this amendment for freedom's sake.

Coming up this month: Don't forget the Women's Day Blood Drive on Aug. 19, Saturday, at Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Women interested in donating are asked to call 863-6761 to make an appointment.



Reactionary Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)

On Sunday, Aug. 20, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation will have their general membership meeting at the MCC, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco, at 7:30 p.m. Women and people of color are especially encouraged to attend. Call 861-4588 for more information about this important group.

Psychotherapist Lindy McNight begins teaching another semester of the popular City College course, Issues in Lesbian Relationships, on Mon-

day nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St., San Francisco. Tuition is a mere \$15, and you can register by attending one of the first two classes.

Also at Everett School, City College will offer an 18-week course on contemporary lesbian and gay films taught by Daniel Mangin of Frameline. The class meets Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. There or at the City College campus on Tuesday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. Call 239-3000 for more information.

On Monday nights beginning Aug. 21, classes in printing and graphics will be offered free of charge at Mission Community College, 106 Bartlett St. near Mission and 22nd streets, San Francisco. Attend the first day of class to register for the 18-week day and evening classes. For info call 648-5866.

And, as always, there's just one more thing. If you want to kick up your heels or maybe do a little hootin' and hollerin', join Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) for free square dance lessons with the Foggy City Dancers this Saturday night, Aug. 12, at Live Oak School, 135 Diamond St., San Francisco, at 7:30 p.m. There will be a no-host bar and snacks available. All are welcome. See you there!

Odd Couple

(Continued from page 25)

rewrote it. Wilson and Black are licking a cistern of dust.

As to a gay audience? This production still has nothing to say. As a curiosity, it is mildly amusing. If the performers ever learned their lines fully, or were directed at something approaching cruising speed, it might actually be funny. As it is, we sit tensely, praying that the actors will get through each bit of dialogue; that somehow Simon's witty repartee will shine through. Black ignores most of Simon's subtle humor, and certainly doesn't find any new laugh lines. An example is the Act I scene where Olive says repeated goodbyes to her group of Trivial Pursuit partners. It's painfully long. They merely say goodbye, one by one, while Olive looks annoyed. Can no one see that there is some action called for here?

As the slovenly sports writer Olive Madison, Richard Wellner (Lily Street) does his best with a bad concept. This production was meant to be a showcase for his/her talents. Sad to say, Lily is no actress. Although played "straight" as a woman, Wellner/Street cannot shake the singular persona of the drag queen he is known as. You never believe Olive's a slob.

Likewise, Stephen/Stephanie Miller's neatfreak Florence Unger is not consistently neat. She's just whiny and loud. They're not that different. When Olive arranges a dinner with her two Latino neighbors, both "women" deck themselves out a la ultra-feminine. Strangely, Olive is the more successful, wearing a beautiful but oversized costume more suitable to, well, a drag queen than a sports writer. We should get Linda Ellerbee. Instead, we get Diane Sawyer. A ludicrous feather attached to Olive's shoulder is of little use—hitting her date in the face once, supposedly for comic effect, and ever after being ignored.

The one totally successful ef-

fort is Joseph Hernandez's set, a realistic and workable apartment piece, which should be held onto for future use in the usually claustrophobic Rhino Studio.

The supporting cast of Olive and Florence's Trivial Pursuit-playing friends is a mixed bag. According to director Black's concept, they abandoned the stock tricks of the drag queen trade, and opted for a more "realistic" style. The resulting look is hurried drag queen. The only two to bring some dimension to the cast of cardboard characterizations are Joe Lo-Coco/Velveeta Mozzarella as Mickey the cop, and Warren Page/Sister Woman as the over-rugged and polyestered Vera. For the play's final moment, Black directs the cast in a gratuitous hug followed by a pseudo-serious tableaux that bespeaks how tightly knit this little band is. God, it seems to say, how misunderstood and rough is the life of a drag queen.

That last may be true. Unfortunately, this play isn't the vehicle for such thoughts. Perhaps a truly homosexually conceptualized version of *The Odd Couple* might be interesting, or insightful. Even one that committed fully to the artifice of drag might be kind of fun. But this half-baked effort is neither. As a script, it lacks the intent or depth to hold up as a universal statement on sexual and gender roles; as a production, it lacks the talent to be appreciated as camp. Many in the cast are members and aficionados of San Francisco's Imperial Court, a drag network that has done much for AIDS-related charities around town. As such, former Empress Lily Street and her cohorts are to be saluted. If they are smart, they will beat their high heels a hasty retreat from the forum of the legitimate stage.

* *The Odd Couple* through Aug. 27
Theatre Rhinoceros Studio
2926 16th St.
Wed.-Sun., 8:30 p.m.; \$10-\$12;
861-5079

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Cash Awards Open To Native Photogs

San Francisco Camerawork is seeking artist entries for the James D. Phelan Art Award in Photography. Established by the trust of James D. Phelan

(1861-1930), former San Francisco mayor, U.S. senator and arts supporter, the James D. Phelan Art Award recognizes and rewards the achievements of California-born artists in a variety of disciplines.

The 1989 James D. Phelan Art Award in Photography will be

given to three California-born artists. Each will receive a \$2,500 cash award and will be included in an exhibition at S.F. Camerawork, Feb. 1-March 3, 1990.

Participants may submit no more than 10 pieces that utilize photographic processes. Slides

will be accepted *only* for oversized and three-dimensional work. There is no entry fee.

Jurors will be Diana Dupont, assistant curator of photography, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Mark Johnstone, photographer, writer, curator.

Deadline is Oct. 7.

Application for the 1989 award is open to any California-born artist. California residency is not required. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for prospectus and entry form to S.F. Camerawork, 70 12th St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

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Gldkg WM 5'8", 45, 150lbs. has well built vers. 9, wants same on 35 to 45 prefer photo. Also for dinner, movies, travel, etc. I reside in SF, my residence is in Guerneville. Write to PO Box 1801 Guerneville, CA 95446.

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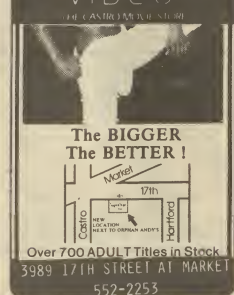
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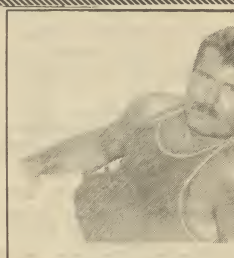
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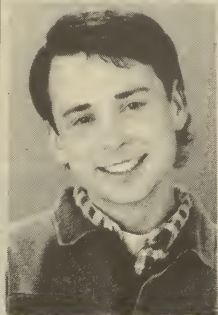
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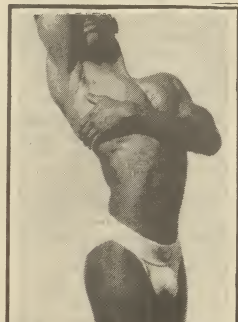
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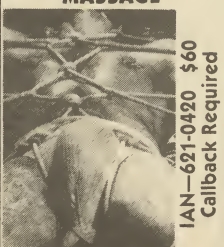
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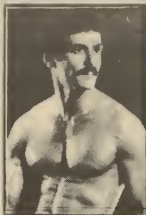
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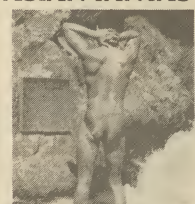
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255 lbs, 22"a, 55" c

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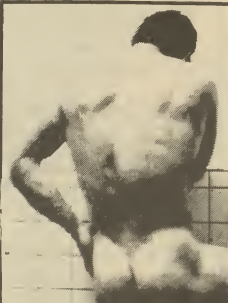
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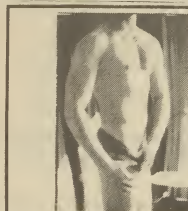
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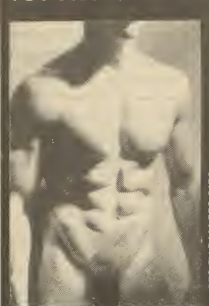
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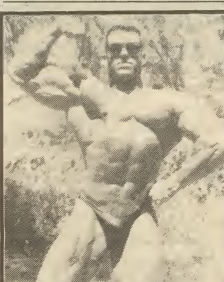
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SOFTBALL



The Galleon makes it home during the playoffs at Rossi Field.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Aviators, Bombers, Crewmen Take Division Championships

by Rick Ritt

There's an old baseball expression that when you win a series of games you bring out the brooms and sweep the series. In the Gay Softball League Playoffs the brooms were very much in evidence as each of the eventual divisional champions—Uncle Bert's Bombers, Amelia's Aviators and the Galleon Crewmen went undefeated and swept to their respective crowns.

The victories earned each team the right to represent the GSL in Atlanta at Gay Softball World Series '89.

The Open Division Championship started on Sunday with the highly awaited rubber match between Uncle Bert's Bombers and the Sentinel Newshawks. These two high-powered teams had split two earlier meetings during the regular season, and a classic contest was anticipated.

But as with many classic matchups such as pro fights or college basketball, this matchup proved to be no contest as Uncle Bert's Bombers outthit, outfielded and generally outplayed the Newshawks 16-4.

This loss dropped the Newshawks into the loser's bracket, but they had to wait for the outcome of the Eagle/Pilsner Inn Penguin clash to determine their next opponent.

The Bombers retired to the sidelines letting the three remaining teams battle it out to determine who would have to beat them twice to snatch the Open Division title from their grasp.

The Pilsner Inn Penguins used the matchup against the Eagle as they easily defeated the men of Folsom Street.

The Penguins then moved on to face the Sentinel, where they

played one of their most outstanding contests in many a year. The game was deadlocked at two as the game entered the sixth inning when the usually explosive Sentinel bats finally showed some pop and pushed across three runs for a 5-2 victory.

The Bombers, poised on the edge of their quest for title, took to the field to take on the Newshawks, needing a victory to close out the season.

The Sentinel did not want to go away without a struggle as they scored three times in the first inning to take a 3-1 lead.

But the Bombers wanted no part of a third game, as inning by inning they chipped away and garnered a 5-4 lead into the seventh. The bombers were able to hold the lead and earn the trip to Atlanta.

Outstanding for Uncle Bert's Bombers was the managing of Tom Scherck, the pitching of Gary Belcher Hall, the infield play of Bob Wilcox and the all-around play of team MVP Tony Easley.

The Women's Division was much more clear cut. Amelia's was heavily favored to win but they were able to carry the weight of the favorite's role by defeating Women's Traveler twice to earn their second straight Women's Division crown.

The first game, the finals of the winner's bracket, saw the Aviators edge Women's Traveler 12-10 in a six-inning contest called on time.

In the first loser's bracket game of the Women's Division, pre-tournament dark horse the Galleon Women were eliminated when they were upset by the fourth-seeded Uncle Bert's Barbelles.

The Barbelles then moved on to face Women's Traveler, who wanted another shot at the Aviators. The "Agents" got that shot as they defeated the Barbelles to move on to the finals.

Women's Traveler put up a valiant effort to try to extend the playoffs one more game, but playing a previous game was too much to ask them to overcome as Amelia's posted another victory to head south for Atlanta.

The Rec Division Championship was a story of the sleeping giant who finally woke up. That giant was the Galleon Crewmen, whose potent attack was the envy of even Open Division teams.

The Crewmen crushed three straight opponents and took advantage of an early upset of their closest competitor and top-seeded Rainbow 'Roos to earn their title.

The Rec Division started with six teams still alive. In the first contests of the day, the Galleon squared off against the Cafe Sn. Marcos, and the Rainbow 'Roos battled the Corral. The Galleon was able to easily defeat the Cafe, 8-2, while the Corral, using timely hitting and some costly miscues by the Rainbow 'Roos, was able to move on by upsetting the previously undefeated 'Roos.

The losers of the first two games moved on to face the two teams remaining in the loser's bracket from the previous weekend—the Mint and the Pilsner Inn Pistons.

The two contests proved to be direct opposites as the Rainbow 'Roos took out their frustrations in easily defeating the Mint, but the Cafe Sn. Marcos had a difficult time ending the Pistons' season by narrowly defeating them 3-2 to stay alive.

The tournament moved on with four teams still alive and the two teams still unbeaten facing off (The Corral/Galleon Men) and the teams with one loss meeting in an elimination contest (Cafe Sn. Marcos/Rainbow 'Roos).

Again, the two contests proved to be direct opposites as one was a classic contest with the other being an N.C. (no contest).

The winner's bracket game was a no contest as the Galleon Crewmen used their hitting talents to overpower the Corral, 20-5.

The other contest was a struggle. The Rainbow 'Roos found themselves trailing the Cafe 3-2 heading to the bottom of the

sixth. The "Marsupials" were not ready to give up their Rec Division crown and they exploded for seven runs in the sixth to eliminate the Cruisers.

The wear and tear of the day started to show as the Corral and the Rainbow 'Roos met in the finals of the loser's bracket.

The 'Roos, however, were not ready to give up yet as they gained revenge for the defeat earlier in the day by eliminating the Corral, 6-3.

The 'Roos, weary from four previous games, then moved across town to Rossi Field where waiting for them was a well-rested group of Crewmen from the Galleon. The game was anti-

(Continued on page 46)

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POOL

Curtain Coming Up On Autumn Season

The San Francisco Pool Association kicks off its 23rd season Tuesday with 30 teams eyeing the prize at December's finish line—the coveted City Championship.

The first 14 weeks of play in the four randomly drawn divisions decide which 116 teams advance to the playoffs, and that represents the immediate goal for most teams. For a select few, anything short of the ultimate victory is considered a failure.

Besides the team title, players can dream of seeing their names honored as individual champions in a number of late season single's contests. The "majors" are considered to include the '89 9-Ball Championship, the MVP Tournament, the Women's WCC Qualifier and the All-Star.

Any list of early favorites to go the distance would have to include last season's champs, the Deluxe Ducks. This season they've migrated to a new home and have been renamed the San Marcos Cafe Quackers. They've also welcomed West Coast Challenge Women's Champion Torri Connelly into their flock. Their primary Division II rivals are likely to be the Specialtease, beefed up with the addition of seasoned veteran Barry White.

Division IV has two obvious contenders in the White Swallow International and the Overpassers. Four members of the fall '88 City Champions have

reunited on the latter team and are joined by Butch McAllister and Jack Dunbar. We're talking depth here.

Antonio Rios has staked an early claim on Division III with his Cinch Shooting Stars. He's also served notice that he's importing a "hot shooter from Berkeley" who intends to make his presence known. Not to be overlooked are the six other teams that plan to offer more than token resistance.

Division I offers the prognosticator few clues, and it seems prudent to sit back and let nature and the Divine Billiard Forces take their course in this opportunistic field.

Once again the scheduling committee took all conceivable factors into account and decided to pattern this season after last season's model. Some players have bemoaned the task of facing equally ranked teams for six consecutive weeks in the schedule's latter half, but the fact remains that this is the fairest plan to allow all teams an equal shot at making the playoffs, as well as offering even the weakest teams a chance to win a few matches.

A few teams still have roster positions available. Prospective players should note that a full range of skill levels participate in the league and there are individual competitive opportunities for all members. Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information. ▼



Play Ball

The Hotshots took the floor as Gay Basketball began at Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Collingwood last weekend. At right, a security officer looks on. The facility has been the center of controversy between the gay league and the city regarding security costs.

(Photo: Rink)

Softball

(Continued from page 45)

climactic. The 'Roos couldn't find any reserve in the tank. The Galleon easily defeated them to earn their title.

As the games ended and champagne popped, the league convened at the California Club to fete the champions at the league banquet. The surprise of the evening occurred when Mayor Art Agnos appeared to pass out the championship trophies. The mayor ad-

ressed the group on two big November issues—domestic partners and the desperate need for a new baseball park in downtown.

However, the highlight of his presentation was his announcement of a bet with Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young on who would win the opening game of the world series in the Rec Division between the Galleon and the Rec Division champion from Atlanta.

The league also had other honorees to pass out hardware to at the banquet. Each team honored their "Most Valuable Players" for their contributions both on and off the field.

The league for the first time established an award for fans as Ed and Gene, who have supported the league for many years, were honored.

The Rookie of the Year Award, which goes to the outstanding newcomer to the league, went to Sue Klages of Amelias.

Honored for their work with the Godfather Service Fund were Bobby Colon and Allen Winkle, who won the league's Humanitarian Award.

The board also exchanged gifts after having to put up with one another for the past year.

Also receiving thanks for his statistical work was Bill Pielock. (Sorry, Pielock, no razor blade!)

Taking home the league's most prestigious award was the Corral, which won the league's True Spirit Award as voted on by the league.

Now it's off to Atlanta for Series '89. Good luck to the three teams. Do San Francisco and the GSL proud.

The Open Division champs, Bombers, start play against the champions of the Steel City Softball League of Pittsburgh.

Amelia's, Women's Division Champ, faces a stiff test when they meet the champion of Chicago's Metropolitan Sports Association, who have finished second the past two years.

The Rec Division Winners, Galleon, will play opening night against the host city of Atlanta's Rec Team.

I will have a full report on Atlanta upon our return. ▼

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Art Benefit

Rudy Lemcke and his painting "Wicked Witch," part of "Art and Self-Healing: Living Well with the Epidemic." The show, at New Langston Arts, 1246 Folsom, runs through Aug. 12. Proceeds will benefit the art and recreation program at Peter Claver Community. For more information, call 626-3368.

(Photo: Rink)

BOWLING

Japantown

Bowlers Lend Hand To Ill Colleagues

One of the heartwarming stories of the past year has been the development of BEAR (Bowlers Emergency Aid Relief), an organization designed to create funds for bowlers who have terminal illnesses. In the original concept, many bowlers decided to include 25 cents extra in their weekly bowling fees for BEAR.

But Japantown bowlers did the idea one better. Many of them decided to make the contribution voluntary, speculating that some people might give more than a quarter. Thus, each week in the summer leagues, JTown bowlers have been digging into their jeans for loose change or dollar bills.

The results have been outstanding. Wednesday Community League President and BEAR board member Carol Hull says that more than \$800 has been collected in the summer leagues. Just another example of the ingenuity of the gay and lesbian community in San Francisco, because there would have been far less money collected had every-one pitched in two bits.

★ ★ ★

One of the questions inexperienced bowlers always seem to ask is, "Gee, I'd like to bowl, but would I ever have a chance? I'm not good at all!"

The first thing the prospective bowler has to clear from his or her mind is that "there is no chance of winning." The reason boils down to one word: handicap.

For those unfamiliar with this word in a bowling context, here's a quick explanation. When two teams play each other, they add up their averages and subtract the lesser average. This will establish a handicap, depending on what percentage has been decided as the norm for a particular league.

For this reason, an inexperienced team usually picks up anywhere from 50 to 150 pins extra for its score each game, depending on the quality of its opponent.

A perfect example of this system is the team known as Friends of Dorothy in the Wednesday Community League. Team Captain Kris Neal says that he and his teammates had never bowled in league competition before and were extremely inexperienced. And yet, the Friends of Dorothy are in second place with a chance of following their own yellow brick road to a trophy if they can keep improving their scores. The handicaps they have been getting frequently have helped them to gain confidence, and not only have they been winning games, but actually improving their scores.

Another thing about the Friends of Dorothy. Their enthusiasm has been one of the highlights of the league, which brings back one of the strong points of emphasis for a bowling center: have fun.

★ ★ ★

And now, here are the top bowling scores for the last two weeks:

Monday Community League, July 24: Charles Daniels (149 average) 220; Bill Celis (134) 206; David Young (161) 214 and 206; Peter Baga (139) 204; and Beth Clark (141) 210.

Tuesday Community League, July 25: Bob Damron (187) 210; Tim Kneis (192) 210; Clarence Nora (152) 200; John Pulsipher (144) 204; Bob Dos Santos (156) 201; Danny Hagy (147) 204; and Chuck Adkins (186) 216 and 202 for a 601 series.

Wednesday Community League, July 26: Michael Seibel (167) 213; Bob Bryan (172) 221; Phil Whitaker (184) 256; and Gary Baker (134) 204.

Gay Tennis Tournament This Weekend in East Bay

by Les Balmain

The Jim Holloran Classic, the 10th annual membership tournament of the Gay Tennis Federation of San Francisco, is scheduled for this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12 and 13, at the Channing Avenue Tennis Courts at the University of California, Berkeley.

"There will be three divisions, Class A, Class B and Class C," announced Carlos Terra, tournament director, "with a draw of 16 entries in each. Many new members loaded with talent have entered this year, which should make for some exciting matches and possible upsets!"

The tournament will consist of singles play only, with single elimination and consolation brackets in all three divisions. First- and second-place trophies will be awarded in both championship and consolation brackets.

The 1988 champions who will be defending their titles are: Class A, championship, Wade Gillam, consolation, Tom Neville; Class B, championship, Curt Tibbits, consolation, Charles Woods; Class C, championship, Jim Walker, consolation, Randy Click.

Members, fans and loved ones are encouraged to pack a picnic basket and drive over to the courts for two days of fun in the sun. Directions to the courts: From the Bay Bridge take Highway 80 North, take Ashby Exit and go about two miles east on Ashby. (Don't speed above city speed limits—lots of local radar traffic cops on duty.) Make a left on Telegraph Avenue and proceed for about one mile, then make a left on Channing Avenue. Go about two blocks. The courts are on the left. Parking available under courts, but buy parking tickets. Parking officers will ticket cars.



Japantown Bowl's Names Project team in this year's Gay Parade.

(Photo: Tony Molina)

Thursday Community League, July 27: Lew Gilmore (155) 212; Vince Di Cola (153) 204 and 201; David Williams (157) 202.

Friday Community League, July 28: David Arnold (185) 235; Roger Queen (171) 209.

Sunday Reno League, July 29: Derek Teruya (162) 214 and Bob Dean (158) 208.

Monday Community League, July 31: Jim Greblowski (162) 209 and Aryae Levy (164) 203.

Tuesday Community League,

Aug. 1: Bill Gallagher (160) 205; Russell Palmer (165) 205; Don George (179) 212; and Tim Kneis (192) 222.

Wednesday Community League, Aug. 2: Alex Nofte (133) 205; John Wood (142) 204; Rick Marchu (162) 207; and Todd Brooks (165) 200 and 222.

Thursday Community League, Aug. 3: Richard Harry (170) 210

Friday Community League, Aug. 4: Frank Rauch (172) 220 and 222; David Arnold (187) 236 and 210, as well as a 622 series;

Michael Sieczkarek (159) 202 and David Cohen (145) 211.

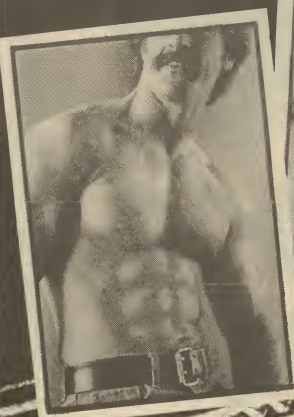
Sunday Reno League, Aug. 6: Ron Smola (175) 207; Bob Dean (160) 209; Charles Daniels (152) 203; Larry Fuller (151) 200; Ken Kalani (171) 211 & 201.

And, two we missed from the previous column, both on July 14: Roger Queen 236 and Tarrie Mitchell 216. Sorry for missing that, and way to bowl, Roger and Tarrie!

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Karr

(Continued from page 27)

a sudden, this torrent came out, which I didn't know was there. Excuse the expression, but vomit came out. I didn't know I had all these ideas about masochism, and I wasn't trying to tell the world about fascism. None of it was intended—it was more primitive than that. It was just a *cri de coeur*.

"The show has been controversial, and it has been amusing to see people feeling so torn by it. One woman said, 'I loved it, but I didn't like it,' and that was great—American audiences are so used to wanted a torturer to actually face

just sitting and being voyeurs, so I like it when they feel torn. I like to make them think. For instance, there is an incredible song called 'The Joys of Torture,' in which the King of Hell sings about the torturer's side of it—the justification of torture: Here's why I enjoy torture, because of this and this. Because in Argentina the torturers are in jail and are screaming for amnesty because they were only doing their job in a dirty war. What that makes it OK to torture people? Because you are in a war? Well, they give you this wonderful explanation of how they were trying to save other people's lives, and it's so logical it makes you want to puke.

"And that's fascism. So I

you, and sing out, and explain his side. It's sickening—but brilliant at the same time."

★ ★ ★

Graciela Daniele came to her ability to tell a story through dance by working with many of American musical theatre's greatest talents—including Matt Mattox, Hal Prince, Michael Bennett and Bob Fosse. Trained in Argentina, she was a 15-year-old ballerina in Paris when she saw one of the last tours of *West Side Stories*—and no slouch of a tour, either, with Chita Rivera, Eliot Feld and 18-year-old Michael Bennett as Baby John.

"I realized that I had too

much passion, too much face for *ballet blanc*," Daniele told me. "And I was so enthralled by the fact that the whole story was told through dance that I was crying like a baby. I decided that I had to leave Paris and go to a place like New York where things like this happened."

"Jack Cole was no longer teaching, and everybody said his greatest disciple was Matt Mattox, so I went to study jazz dancing with him."

Daniele took his beginner's class, but Mattox, calling her an extraordinary dancer, gave her an instruction book with all the exercises for the body-part isolations jazz dancers do, and told her to practice them for a week and come back to his professional class. Which she did. Then, within a few weeks, Mattox needed a South American dancer for a show he was choreographing called *What Makes Sammy Run*—so within a month of arriving in America, Graciela Daniele was on Broadway. She's hardly been off it since.

Bennett saw her when she was assisting Tony Mordente on a one-night flop called *Here's Where I Belong* (based on *East of Eden*). He asked that she join his current project—even though she was committed elsewhere, Bennett felt this one was more important, because it would pair him with Burt Bacharach and Neil Simon.

"I didn't know these people—to me it was like he was saying John Smith and Robert Brown. But Michael was able to arrange it, and so I was in *Promises, Promises*.

That began a working relationship with Bennett, which lasted through *Coco and Follies*, during which she functioned as Dance Assistant for the Women. Bennett urged his collaborators to contribute freely to his work, and that made her think of choreographing on her own. For several years she worked in Los Angeles on television shows and industrials—until she got a call from Bob Fosse in 1975 to come back east to do *Chicago*, in which

she danced and played "Hunk-jak," the innocent woman who is pronounced guilty and hanged.

"With Michael we did weeks of pre-production, creating and improvising, before the dancers would come in, and then we would teach them the steps. But I can't say I did this step or that. Michael based his work on what his dancers could do, so it really was a total collaboration—although it was always his decision and editing that decided what the final product was.

"Since working on my own, I have choreographed *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *The Rink*. I don't think I have assimilated the physical styles of Fosse and Bennett. It was the process of work that influenced me mostly. That is what I learned, and that is research, research, research—learning anything you can about a period and the style, and then trying to get a marriage going with the director so that your work with his can be seamless."

That yearning for the seamless musical, so evident in *West Side Story* and *A Chorus Line*, is probably what leads choreographers to become directors. It has certainly been Daniele's goal.

"I have not been as concerned with establishing a style that was identifiably mine as with finding what each show needed to make it move and breathe. The first part of *Dangerous Games* is almost a story without words. That has been my inspiration since I saw *West Side Story*, to use dance as a language. Well, I'm not the first one to do that, I mean, Martha Graham and Agnes De Mille, everybody did that before me. But I do feel that it's extraordinary the amount of emotion and deep and sometimes primitive feeling you can express through just movement. That's what I've tried to do in *Dangerous Games*," Daniele said. "I hope you like the show," and paused to clarify that thought. "It's not a question of liking it," she said. "I hope you're touched."



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SF Rallies to Help East Bay AIDS Groups

by Dennis McMillan

Emperor Jerry Coletti and Empress Pat Montclair shipped a busload of San Francisco entertainers to Walnut Creek at the Just Rewards cabaret bar on July 30 for "Neighbor Outreach," a benefit for Diablo Valley AIDS Center and Contra Costa AIDS Task Force.

Host Scott Johnston opened with a "Razzle Dazzle" number that was even flashier than his bugle-head shirt. He followed with a very appropriate song for an AIDS fundraiser, "Bring Him Home" from *Les Miserables*. The combination of emotional lyrics such as "You can take, you can give, let him be, let him live" and the tearful, plaintive voice of Johnston made for quite a moving performance.

The country quartet Fiddlestix opened their set with "Tips" from *Pumpkins and Dinettes*. As the words advise, "Don't bother comin' back if you haven't left a tip." Here's a tip to *Bay Area Reporter* readers and concert-goers, keep your eyes on this fast-rising group. They can take some old fossils by the McGuire Sisters and the Andrew Sisters, such as "Sincerely" and "Beat Me Dad-

dy Eight to the Bar," and with some souped-up rhythms come up with an entirely new sound.

Then there's Solomon Rose, who takes a classic like "Stardust" and makes it classier. His ultra-smooth phrasing somehow caresses each note and each word. Rose doesn't sing, he seduces.

Add Rose's voice to Johnston's rich baritone for a blend of silk and satin, which is what their duet of "Starting Here, Starting Now" managed to weave. Hopefully this duo will join forces again, although Johnston is soon slated to go on national tour with a new musical fundraiser for AIDS.

And another stellar entertainer will be leaving us within a month. Morgan Aiken is packing for Florida. But not before she treats us to a few more performances of her delightful signature song, "Celie's Blues." Her "Shake Your Shimmy, Sister" just gets prettier and grittier each time she sings it. Kind of reminiscent of Tina Turner's "Nice 'n Rough."

(Continued on next page)

East Bay

(Continued from previous page)

The octet Menage reprised their snappy, peppy Plush Room theme piece, "Steppin' Out" with their usual snap and pep. And then in a drastic mood change, slowed the beat way down

and sang "Summertime" (not the Porgy and Bess one) with a laid-back, l-a-z-y, steamy, sticky, heat-wave kind of feeling.

The whole show was arranged and accompanied by its talented artistic director, Pat Parr, on electric piano. One can only imagine how much grander it would have been on a grand!

Three Menage females then

stepped aside to give a humorous acapella tutorial on the contradictions of being in love: "It's so good for me, it's bad for me; it's swell for me to know you're going through hell for me." Who couldn't relate?

The entire octet regrouped to finish off the show with a swing medley from the oop-hoo-boop Manhattan Transfer sound of "Tuxedo Junction" to the finger-

snapping, toe-tapping, scat singing of "It Don't Mean a Thing."

In between it all was the *Ain't Misbehavin'* hit, "This Joint Is Jumpin'," but the parts were purposely switched, with the ladies suggesting "grab anybody's daughter" while the gentlemen screamed and swooned. Of course it made the joint "10 times more gay" as the lyrics went.

The house went wild and could only be appeased by Menage encoring with a very cool, very hot "Birth of the Blues."

And speaking of the house, it should be pointed out that although the bar was fairly packed with people, most of them were San Francisco immigrants and not Walnut Creekers.

East Bay, this was your fundraiser. Where were you? ▼

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